



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Warned Not To Overrule Joint Statement

TA060115394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Israel and the PLO have agreed to renew the Taba negotiations on Palestinian self-rule. They are expected to resume at the beginning of next week. The joint statement was released this morning in Jerusalem and Tunis. It says the talks will be held on the basis of the Declaration of Principles signed in September and the controversial Cairo understandings reached last week.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the joint statement means that the border issues and the size of the Jericho enclave are no longer up for negotiation. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was cautious this morning. The bitter taste of crisis was still strong, but the foreign minister also spoke in no uncertain terms: Israel's right to maintain security control over the external borders to Jordan and Egypt from the self-rule areas remains intact, as does its objection to enlarging any further the Jericho area as was if not agreed upon, at least understood in last week's Cairo understandings. The joint statement was signed by Peres for the Israelis and by Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] on behalf of the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Peres said the Palestinians have learned that when Israel says it will not back down from its security needs, it means it. And this time, said Peres, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would be best advised not to overrule this joint statement.

[Peres] I think that if this will be done, we will lose credibility in the eyes of everybody. I was told that this is a decision that was taken by the action committee—I do not know exactly the name of the institution—and it is collective responsibility.

[Ze'ev] This is only one stage. Now the negotiations have to resume in Taba. How far are we from the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First accord?

[Peres] Depends upon the amount of difficulties we may encounter as we go along. If it will go smoothly, it can be done in weeks. If we shall again encounter some very complicated issues, this will take more time. But I believe that all of us intend to work continuously so we shall really arrive at a conclusion at the earliest possible date. The land is not burning. We are not operating under fire. We are operating under reason.

[Ze'ev] There is room for some maneuvering. Foreign Minister Peres said Israel has agreed to the PLO's demand for what were described as stylistic changes to the Cairo understandings, but otherwise on the agenda, said Peres, will be the transfer of civilian authorities in a number of areas; security on the roads; and the details concerning the size and authority of the Palestinian

council that will be in place to supervise matters once the self-rule arrangement is implemented. The foreign minister said he believes the existing difficulties could be resolved, but he preferred not to project whether implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First arrangement will be completed on schedule by April 13th. [end recording]

Taba Negotiators To Discuss Israeli, PLO Drafts

TA0601152394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal—recorded]

[Excerpts] Israel is suggesting that the Taba talks be held on a continuous basis. The talks will resume on 10 January. Heads of both delegations, Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Major General Amnon Shahaq, will discuss the two drafts Israel and the PLO have formulated. Several of the disputed issues in the drafts are not at all simple: For example, control over travel axes in Gaza, the size and authority of the Palestinian council, the manner in which civilian authority will be transferred, and other issues. [passage omitted]

A senior political source said today that it is worth paying attention to the fact that the compromise formula makes no mention of the demands Yasir 'Arafat presented in the documents faxed to Israel over the last week. These demands deviated from the Cairo understandings and even from the Oslo document of principles.

Economic Talks End in Paris; Progress Reported

TA0701081894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] In Paris, Israel and Palestinian negotiators have ended the fifth round of economic talks, and progress has been reported. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says advances were made in the areas of agriculture and taxation; however, the Palestinians presented new requests in the area of banking. The Palestinians continue to demand their own currency and a central bank, and are opposed to Israeli representation at customs at border crossing points. The two sides say the talks are due to resume in 10 days.

Israel Proposes Joint Projects With Jordan

TA0701113094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel has proposed to Jordan that it lease to Israel those territories in the 'Arava that Amman is demanding be returned to its sovereignty and that joint economic projects be set up there. The proposal was raised at Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' meeting with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman two months ago.

A year ago, Israel also proposed digging a channel through the 'Arava from the Gulf of Elat to the Dead

Sea. The waters from the channel would flow over the disputed area, and joint tourism projects would be set up on its banks. Jordan is demanding an area of 320 square km in the 'Arava which Israel took over 20 years ago. Some of the area is cultivated by 'Arava settlements.

Political sources said yesterday that the size of the disputed area is still unclear because the Israeli-Jordanian border in the 'Arava was never authoritatively marked either on maps or on the ground. The agenda agreed on in the Israeli-Jordanian peace talks in Washington states that in determining the international border, the border dating to the British Mandate, on the basis of maps and the situation on the ground, would be taken into account. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Contacts Held for Arab 'Reconciliation' Summit

JN0601142794 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
6 Jan 94 pp 1, 16

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that extensive Jordanian-Gulf contacts are currently being held to pave the way for holding an Arab summit to produce Arab reconciliation committees to settle the existing political and border differences among several Arab states, and to draft a formula for a new Arab order that can coexist with the new world order and make gains for the Arab nation.

Jordanian Foreign Ministry sources stressed that these contacts have begun with the visits to Jordan by the foreign ministers of Qatar, Syria, Egypt, and Palestine. The sources said that these contacts will resume next week when the Omani foreign minister visits Jordan on Saturday [8 January].

The Foreign Ministry sources said that these political Arab moves constitute a translation of the official and popular stands of Jordan, which feels that coordinating Arab stands and achieving Arab solidarity constitutes the first step toward the Arabs' entry into the modern age as an influential political and economic force.

The sources noted that Qatar and Oman are currently seeking to expand their political activities to hold a summit that will be the most important and prominent Arab summit, especially since it will put an end to fragmentation and estrangement and achieve Arab unity and solidarity.

Arab Interior Ministers' Meeting Concludes

Iraqi Minister Addresses Conference

JN0601183894 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 6
Jan 94

[Text] Tunis, Jan. 6 (INA)—Iraq's Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki has affirmed that Iraq under leadership of President Saddam Husayn is ready to render all forms

of support for the joint Arab action with the aim of countering enemies of the Arab nation and defending the destiny national causes.

Addressing the Arab Interior Ministers Council last night, Mr. al-Maliki said that the blockade imposed on Iraq since August 1990 did not prevent Iraq from performing its national role and adopt best means of cooperation with the brethren in different fields, chief among which the fields pertaining to consolidating stability and the pan-Arab security.

The minister also called for significance of the joint Arab action for the Arab human being and the Arab destiny and deepening the inter-Arab cooperation to confront with all forms of intervention and foreign ambitions.

Final Communique Issued

LD0601143394 Riyadh SPA in English 1232 GMT 6
Jan 94

[Text] Tunis, Jan 6, SPA—The Council of the Arab Ministers of Interior would up its eleventh session in Tunis on Wednesday [5 January] under the chairmanship of the Tunisian Minister of Interior Abdallah Kallel with a number of resolutions aimed at reinforcement of the inter-Arab cooperation and coordination to fight against criminal acts, drugs and other deviations.

The Saudi delegation to the three-day meeting was led by Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior and the honorary chairman of the council.

The final communique tackled the Arab security joint action and ways to enhance cooperation between the Arab states in security affairs to dedicate peace and stability all over the Arab world.

At the start of the meeting, the council, which groups interior ministers of member states, endorsed a report presented by the secretary general of the council on the activities of the general secretariat during the year 1993 when the secretariat organized more than 16 meeting for Arab security officials.

The council expressed satisfaction over the contents of the second half of the report concerning the continuous and intensive efforts being made by the general secretariat to upgrade contacts and communication with the international anticrime specialized organizations including the Interpol and the United Nations anticrime program to show Arab support for the activities of these organizations assigned for fighting crimes throughout the world.

The council reviewed with satisfaction a report presented by Prince Nayif and Dr. Faruq Murad, president of the Riyadh-based Arab Security Studies and Training Centre (ASSTC) over the efforts made by the centre during the last year to upgrade technical and human capabilities of the Arab security bodies and their personnel.

The council also approved the first annual report submitted by the general secretariat on what has been implemented of the second Arab security plan and thanked the secretariat and the ASSTC for what they have done to achieve the positive results.

It endorsed more than 200 recommendations made by the conferences and meetings organized by the secretariat during 1993 calling for support and modernization of Arab security bodies and closer cooperation in between them.

Concerning the drugs menace, the council reviewed the fifth and last annual report on the first Arab strategic plan to combat drugs and illegal use of narcotics. It endorsed a second five-year plan in the same direction besides an agreement to combat illegal drugs traffic and all concerned parties have been urged to provide every possible technical, legal and judicial support for pursuit of criminals.

The council also endorsed a draft of a unified and intensive information anti-drugs campaign with the aim of spreading religious and social awareness on the menace of drugs and the consequent social and economic negative impacts of such behaviour.

An special committee has been formed to tackle problems that meet the general secretariat and the council decided to transfer the headquarters of the Police Sports Federation from Baghdad to Cairo.

The council sharply denounced all kinds of terrorism particularly the Israeli terrorist acts against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. It deplored the vicious acts being sustained by the Moslem Bosnian people. It decided to hold its upcoming session in Tunis on January 1995.

Meanwhile, Prince Nayif expressed deep satisfaction over the excellent and positive outcome of the meeting and said the final resolutions would certainly reinforce the Arab security joint action.

Prince Nayif, who made the remarks at the end of the meeting last night, said every Arab citizen has the right to live in peace and stability and highlighted the great efforts being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to realise maximum level of peace and security for its Moslem society for the Arab community at large.

Prince Nayif commended the existing security cooperation between the kingdom and Tunisia.

For his part, the secretary general of the Arab Council of Interior Ministers, Dr. Ahmad Salim also praised the positive resolutions adopted by the meeting. He cited in particular the Arab agreement to combat illegal drugs traffic as a brilliant achievement which would booster the Arab joint action in security and criminal fields.

Late last night, Prince Nayif received at his residence the Lebanese Minister of Interior Bishara Merhaj and the Mauritanian Minister of Interior Al-Morabit Mahmoud Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

Prince Nayif also received the Yemeni Minister of Interior, Posts and Communication Yahya al-Morwakil.

The three meetings were attended by Prince Nawaf Bin Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim, the Saudi ambassador to Tunisia and members of delegations accompanying the ministers.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Message From al-Muntasir

NC0601190594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Umar al-Muntasir, Libyan secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. The message deals with the latest developments in the Libyan-Western crisis in light of the UN embargo on Libya and Libya's contacts with the United Nations and international parties in this regard. The message expresses Libya's appreciation for the efforts being made by the Arab League secretary general and the need for continuing these efforts in the future.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said 'Buying Time' To Prepare Security

NC0701085694 Beirut AL-SHIRA in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p 7

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has an interest in delaying the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho: His security agencies are not yet complete. After establishing the armed force (police and public security), 'Arafat now wants to create security services for the presidency and national security (intelligence) to control any security problem from the opposition Palestinian forces.

Arab sources told AL-SHIRA that 'Arafat is deliberately procrastinating at the negotiations, setting conditions that are not mentioned in the Gaza-Jericho agreement he signed with Israel. He is buying time to prepare his own security.

'Urayqat on Resumption of Talks With Israel

NC0701094694 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] What are the factors that prompted the Palestinian and Israeli sides to resume negotiations?

[Urayqat] Actually, what halted the negotiations was Rabin's government. The Palestinian side was willing to continue the talks, despite the deep differences, but the Israeli Government decided to stop them last week. Now they have decided to resume negotiations, and we hope that the aim of these negotiations will not be merely for the sake of negotiating. In other words, we hope that the resumption of talks will not be an aim in itself.

[Al-Miliji] The Palestinian and Israeli sides must have agreed on common points on which the talks can begin.

[Urayqat] The differences are not linked to specific details of the crossings issue or other topics. Instead, the issue is related to the concepts involved. Israel's concept, as was apparent when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was in Cairo and met President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], is that Rabin is trying to reorganize the occupation through the Declaration of Principles, even though the accord stipulates the implementation of Resolution 242, which means ending the occupation. This is where the problem is. As we noticed, the Declaration of Principles stipulates Israeli-Palestinian coordination of the crossings. It mentions the Jericho area, not Jericho City, and stipulates a withdrawal. But, as we notice, the Israeli Government is trying to say that they should have full control over the crossings and roads and so forth. Such issues delayed the negotiations from the start and led to the failure to implement the accord on the scheduled date, 13 December.

We hope that the Israeli Government is now ready to enter negotiations on ways to implement the withdrawal. [words indistinct] the accord to succeed are two elements. The first is that the accord combines both the transitional and final phases with regard to the withdrawal from the Jericho area and the Gaza Strip and redeployment in other areas. The second is that President Abu-'Ammar has declared that he is committed to the accord's provisions. Therefore, we hope the Israeli Government will adhere to the letter and spirit of accord so that we may be able to implement its provisions on the ground.

[Al-Miliji] Have the two sides agreed only on the resumption of the talks, or have they agreed on a groundwork from which negotiations can be launched?

[Urayqat] I believe it is premature to say that an agreement has been reached before the start of the talks. The return to the negotiating table is a positive measure—because we need to implement the accord on the ground—but it is too early to say whether there has been an agreement prior to the talks. I would rule out such an agreement.

[Al-Miliji] No doubt efforts have been exerted by parties other than the Palestinians and Israelis to resume the Palestinian autonomy talks. Will you talk about these parties?

[Urayqat] Actually, there were no other parties. In our recent meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, we asked for their assistance. He said they would not intervene.

The only party that threw its weight behind the resumption of the talks is Egypt. As we noticed, Egyptian diplomacy did everything it could to resume these talks. When he visited Jordan, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa—contrary to Rabin's talk about an earlier agreement in Cairo—said there was no agreement, there were proposals.

I believe that the resumption of talks next week shows the success of Egyptian diplomacy in this regard.

[Al-Miliji] The Israeli side claimed that a memorandum of understanding was reached between the Palestinian and Israeli sides at the recent talks in Cairo. Does this mean that there should be a third party at any Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

[Urayqat] I believe that the presence of a third party is very important and fundamental at this stage. As we noticed, the Israeli side claimed there was an agreement, but 'Amr Musa's denial of this agreement decided the issue before the world. Rabin thought the world would believe him and not the Palestinian side, but Musa put an end to the issue.

There are sponsors of this process—the first being the United States and the second being Russia. Russia is preoccupied with many of its own problems, and the U.S. side is not intervening at all. The only side now intervening as a third party is Egypt. As Palestinians, we believe that Egypt is our partner in the peace process, not an intermediary. Egypt's efforts enabled these negotiations to continue, despite numerous Israeli obstacles.

[Al-Miliji] With the talks on the implementation of self-rule due to resume Monday [10 January], what is the Palestinian side looking for?

[Urayqat] We are looking for a [word indistinct] and genuine implementation of the accord. The accord literally stipulates a withdrawal from the Jericho area and the Gaza Strip. Withdrawal means withdrawal. Regarding other areas, the accord stipulates the Israeli forces' withdrawal from populated areas and a redeployment of the forces. As for the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, the accord stipulated a withdrawal. The Palestinian side is looking forward to the sincere beginning of the Israeli withdrawal in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

Palestinian Group-PLO Talks Conclude in Tunis

Reassurance Sought on Reform Demands

PM0601122494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 94 p4

[Ali al-Salih report: "Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Before Leaving Tunis We Would Like To Feel Somewhat Reassured About Our Demands"]

[Text] London—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who is heading a delegation representing the signatories of what is now known as the reform memorandum submitted to the PLO Executive Committee last month, has stated: "Before leaving Tunis, we would like to feel somewhat reassured that our demands will be met."

He added that "the purpose of the current meetings is to work for the implementation of what the signatories spelled out in their memorandum, particularly exercise of democracy in the management of PLO affairs and the employment of qualified Palestinians, irrespective of political and personal factors." Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, who was speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone from Tunis, described the meetings already held as good, with no fundamental differences and no emotionalism. The purpose of these meetings, he said, was to exchange views.

He said that last night's session was devoted to a discussion of the brief memorandum submitted to the Executive Committee during the meeting.

It should be noted that, in addition to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the reform delegation includes 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab (independent), Taysir 'Aruri (People's Party), Nabil 'Amr (member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council), Ibrahim Abu-'Abbas (former engineers' doyen in Jordan), Tawfiq Abu-Bakr (independent journalist), and Ghazi al-Khalili (Fida Party).

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi refused to say what the memorandum was about but said that it was derived from "the main document." Asked if the brief memorandum included practical steps for the implementation of their demands, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "Let us not anticipate events."

Commenting on the statement attributed to him that he would not leave Tunis "empty-handed," Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "We did not come to Tunis just to look at one another. Our people are facing major challenges and the necessary measures must be taken to meet these challenges."

In reply to the question what do you hope to achieve, he said: "That our viewpoint should be upheld in principle. Before leaving Tunis we would like to feel somewhat reassured that our demands will be met or that they are on the way to being met."

'Abd-al-Shafi on Failure of Talks

NC0601153694 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 6 Jan 94

[By Hamida Ben Salah]

[Excerpt] Tunis, Jan 6 (AFP)—Leading Palestinians on Thursday [6 January] said they failed to persuade PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to stop "monopolizing" decisions on the peace process and make the organization more democratic.

"'Arafat is continuing to monopolize power," delegation leader Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said at the end of a five-day mission at the PLO headquarters in Tunis to press for more democracy.

He blamed PLO executive committee members for showing no interest in making joint decisions.

"We cannot blame Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat). A man can only monopolize power if he has no partners who want to share it with him," said 'Abd-al-Shafi, a former leader of the Palestinian negotiating team to bilateral peace talks with Israel.

He said democracy within the executive committee would have "positive effects at all levels of the Palestinian organization."

But 'Abd-al-Shafi confirmed reports Wednesday that the executive committee had met one delegation demand by giving him full powers to organize a broad dialogue grouping all factions with the aim of uniting the Palestinians.

The delegation arrived here Sunday calling for the adoption of nine points included in a memorandum signed two weeks before by 120 prominent Palestinian personalities from the occupied territories and the diaspora last month.

The memorandum called for more democracy in running PLO affairs and demanded a change in the conduct of negotiations with Israel over limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

'Arafat, who has been accused of being autocratic, is yet to comment on the proposals.

The petition called for mapping out a strategy for the self-rule negotiations, setting up a committee for directing the talks, and choosing negotiators based on merit rather than on political considerations.

The petition also demanded respect for human rights.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said Monday: "There is no hope for us if we don't practice real democracy."

The delegation wanted 'Arafat to make a "commitment to more democracy, set up a collective leadership, broaden the base for making decisions, and encourage diverse Palestinian participation without favoritism," he said.

'Abd-al-Shafi urged that the leadership must make a "total and serious" commitment to all aspects of democracy, and that decision-making must not be left entirely in 'Arafat's hands.

A founding PLO member, he stressed the need to use Palestinians of ability at this "decisive" time, when the organisation and Israel are struggling to make headway in implementing the accord for self-rule. [passage omitted]

Al-Ashhab: 'Some Demands' Met

JN0601201894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, member of Palestinian team pressing PLO for reforms; place and date not given—recorded; carried within the "With the Events" program]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, the talks with the PLO leadership and the its Executive Committee on PLO reforms have ended in Tunis. What decisions or recommendations were issued at the end of these talks?

[Al-Ashhab] As a matter of fact, we came to Tunis to discuss a memorandum presented to the Palestinian leadership two or three weeks prior to our arrival in Tunis. As you know, this memorandum was signed by 120 Palestinian figures from inside and outside [the occupied territories]. We found understanding on the part of the Palestinian leadership of these demands. Some demands were immediately approved and a mechanism was created to implement them. We found that some other ideas were referred to PLO institutions. We asked for activating these institutions so they could assume their role in implementing what was contained in the items of this memorandum.

[Mu'addi] What are the ideas to which the PLO leadership has responded?

[Al-Ashhab] In fact, we stressed national dialogue and asserted the need to unify all components of the PLO Executive Committee. As you know, some PLO members announced that they were freezing their membership. Some of them withdrew and others resigned. We asked the leadership to issue a statement calling for unified ranks and the return of those brothers to the PLO Executive Committee. After this statement, a committee under Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi will be set up. This committee will contact those brothers, and we will attain this demand for the return of those people to the PLO ranks.

Ten Factions Form 'Alliance' of Forces

NC0601165794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Damascus, 6 Jan (MENA)—The 10 Palestinian factions based in Damascus, which oppose the PLO, have declared the formation of the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces [tahaluf al-quwa al-filastinyah] with the aim of confronting the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The Palestinian oppositionists also declared that they are preparing a popular conference to marshal capabilities to undermine this agreement.

The leaders of the 10 factions held a news conference in the Syrian capital today.

Goals of 'Alliance' Detailed

JN0601195994 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The Alliance of the Palestinian Forces [APF] held a news conference at noon today at al-Khalisah Compound of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command at al-Yarmuk Camp south of Damascus. The APF released a statement detailing the alliance's political goals and structure. Following is the statement's full text:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The key goals of the APF: The political goals include proceeding from the necessity to keep the struggle going in order to topple the Gaza-Jericho accord and realize our people's and the Arab and Islamic nation's objectives, the alliance obligates itself to the following:

First, on the Palestinian front:

1. The Palestinian National Charter.
2. Our people's inalienable rights to their homeland, Palestine, liberation, return, self-determination, and full national independence.
3. The Palestinian issue is an Arab and Islamic one. The responsibility for the deliverance of Palestine must be borne by the Arab and Islamic nation, most of all the Palestinian people.
4. Our people's and territory's unity and that of their cause and objectives and their national destiny and adherence to all their national and historic rights. No one has the right to cede any part of these rights.
5. Adherence to the option of armed struggle and jihad as a principal tool to attain liberation.
6. Adherence to the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland as well as the integrity of their land.
7. The alliance deems the PLO a national achievement whose gains must be safeguarded and institutions rebuilt on democratic foundations.
8. The alliance deems the present PLO leadership unrepresentative of the Palestinian people or their hopes and aspirations.
9. The alliance deems the recognition document and the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement national treason that all possible means must be used to topple. Neither the document nor the agreement are binding on the Palestinian people.
10. Adherence to Palestine as a historic homeland that has no alternative for the Palestinian people, and resistance to all projects of a substitute homeland or resettlement, transfer, compensation, or attempts to suppress the Palestinian people's national identity.
11. Boycotting the political, administrative institutions responsible for implementing the self-administration and the Gaza-Jericho accord and the holding of elections for the self-administration council, and organizing the widest possible popular campaign to isolate, ostracize, and topple these institutions.

12. Severing links with all the institutions that 'Arafat or his team lead or are involved in under the name of the PLO.

13. A determination to pursue and step up armed struggle and all forms of political and mass struggle, particularly inside the occupied territory to keep the popular intifadah going as the main arena of conflict with the Zionist enemy to promote the inalienable, historic and national rights of the Palestinian people.

Second, on the Arab and Islamic fronts:

1. A reaffirmation that the Palestinian cause is the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

2. Taking into consideration that the dangers attendant to the 'Arafat-Rabin accord are not limited to the Palestinian people and Palestine but constitute a threat to the Arab and Islamic nation, the AFF would like to make it clear that facing this liquidatory conspiracy and its repercussions is a responsibility for the Palestinian people and Arab and Muslim masses.

3. A bolstering of joint Palestinian-Arab-Muslim militant ties to counter Zionist and expansionist hegemonic blueprints and political, cultural, and economic normalization.

4. A reaffirmation of the right of the Palestinian people in the diaspora to exercise their militant responsibilities alongside the nationalist, Islamic, and Arab forces to promote liberation, return, self-determination, and full national independence.

Third, on the global front:

1. The role being played by the United States supporting the Zionist entity and advocating its plans against our Palestinian people and their struggle and the Arab liberation movement is deemed by the alliance a brazen aggression on our people and our national cause.

2. The AFF underscores the importance of stepping up cooperation with the Islamic, Asian, and African states, as well as with all the friendly nations standing by the struggle of our Palestinian people and supporting their inalienable national rights.

3. We stress the importance of forging an alliance with all the forces for liberation and progress around the world—the forces that reject imperialist domination and Zionist invasion and support our struggle and our national rights.

4. To work to disseminate all that relates to the Palestinian cause and the national struggle to win the widest possible public opinion over to the cause of our struggle and our rights and to make the case that the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement neither amounts to a solution nor brings peace.

The alliance's structure:

Inspired by its political goals, the AFF is to form a Central Command, which will be responsible for formulating its decisions, policies, and political goals:

A—The numerical composition: Each faction will have two representatives on the AFF's Central Command.

B—The meetings: The Central Command is to convene sessions at least once a month. This is in addition to extraordinary meetings that may be convened at the request of at least four factions. Decisions are to be adopted by agreement (*ittimafaq*), and the meetings are to be chaired on a rotating basis.

C—A Secretariat is to be set up for the AFF and each faction will have one representative there. It will convene at least once a week, or whenever the need arises. Its task will be to follow and see to the implementation of the Central Command's resolutions. The Secretariat will have permanent headquarters.

[signed] The AFF: The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Palestinian National Resistance Movement, Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Liberation War Vanguard—al-Sa'iqa Force, the Palestinian Struggle Front, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front

Israeli Air Raid on PFLP-GC Position Reported

NC0601174294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1713 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] According to the latest reports from the south, a Palestinian was wounded in the Israeli raid on a position belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] on the al-Na'mah hills this afternoon. However, Palestinian sources said that the wounded person is a Lebanese civilian who happened to be driving his car in the vicinity during the raid. He was wounded in the hand.

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that the hills al-Tallah hills, particularly Mlita, 'Ayn Bu Sawan, and al-Lawaynah, came under intermittent bombardment from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffar. The Israeli artillery emplacements on the hills of Sajad and al-Lawaynah' raked opposite positions. Two Israeli helicopters overflew the hills facing the city of al-Nabatiyah.

PFLP-GC To Issue Statement

JN0601194494 (Chardessine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Two Zionist warplanes today raided positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] in Bi'wira, 16 km south of Beirut. The planes fired two minutes at these positions. A PFLP-GC source said that a statement on this raid would be issued later.

Three Fatah Members Resign in Territories

NC0601142494 Paris AFP in English 1322 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Hebron, Occupied West Bank, Jan 6 (AFP)—Three more senior members of Fatah, the main PLO

faction, in the occupied territories resigned on Thursday [6 January] in a burgeoning row over the way Yasir 'Arafat's movement is run.

"After several attempt to discuss with the leadership the absence of democracy and consultation within Fatah, we had no choice but to resign," said 33-year-old Jibril al-Bakri.

"The leadership has appointed to positions of responsibility people who have nothing to do with Fatah", al-Bakri said, but refused to explain.

Husayn al-Nazir, 30, and Diyab al-Sharabati, 35, resigned from Fatah's High Committee in Hebron along with al-Bakri.

Their move follows a walkout at the end of December by three leaders of the Fatah youth movement in Gaza after 'Arafat gave top jobs to aging Palestinians who played little part in the uprising or intifadah. The Fatah chief for the north of the West Bank also stood down.

"These resignations reflect a crisis as Fatah changes into a political party, said Jamal al-Shubaqi, another senior Fatah figure in Hebron.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee met in Tunis this week to discuss democratization after a petition from 120 leading Palestinian figures.

Al-Nazir Explains Resignation

JN0601211594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Report by Ahmad 'Ubaydat, carried within the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Three Fatah activists in the governorate of Hebron tendered their resignations yesterday due to the absence of a democratic policy within the PLO institutions. This was stated by Husayn al-Nazir, member of the Fatah Committee in the governorate of Hebron, who resigned yesterday.

[Begin al-Nazir recording] In fact, there are several reasons for the resignation. These reasons have accumulated due to the bad or deteriorating internal situation in the Fatah institutions in the past few months.

Practically, the absence of a democratic policy in the Fatah institutions has negatively reflected on the situation in the occupied territories, particularly the southern region. This was one of the reasons for the resignation. In addition, there are personalities from outside Fatah. These are bad personalities who hold sensitive posts inside Fatah. We recently learned about the presence of personalities who carried letters entrusting them with forming a security apparatus. This apparatus is one of the most serious Fatah organs, so entrusting a bad personality with running this apparatus will practically destroy Fatah's internal structure in our positions. [end recording]

These resignations came after some Fatah activists in the territories also tendered their resignations for the same reason. These collective resignations express the existence of a crisis inside the PLO. Al-Nazir added:

[Begin al-Nazir recording] In our opinion, our historic leadership, led by brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], whom we respect very much, is surrounded by a group of personalities who do not brief him on the true reports sent from the territories. These are the reasons for the rise of traditional personalities who are outside the organization and who are even away from the suffering of the strugglers. These strugglers were always in the confrontation lines.

We demand our leadership to return to the PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah Central Committee, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, and the Fatah General Congress, so the future internal arrangements and reforms may, in one way or another, lead to the circumvention of this crisis, and, consequently, decisions will be somewhat sound ones. We would agree if 70 percent of the stands were sound ones. However, we will not agree if only 10 percent of stands are sound ones.

In the past, we frequently tried to hold discussions with our leadership to tackle this situation. However, we were surprised that it ignored us or did not pay attention to our demands. We were also surprised by the appointment of political personalities who are outside the organization and who are more preoccupied with the political situation. This has prevented these personalities from coordinating with the territories' leadership and the leadership abroad.

We have resigned from our posts and not from our membership or our citizenship. We are citizens and [Fatah] members. However, we refuse to be appointed in sensitive posts under these difficult historical circumstances, whose developments we are far away from. We demand our leadership prepare a clear political program for the new phase. [end recording]

Hamas Leader: No Clashes With Interim Authority

TA0601152594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Jan 94 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] Gaza, QUDS PRESS—A Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader has said that his movement will not participate in any authority, stemming from the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, during the interim stage in the occupied territories.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar stressed to QUDS PRESS: Naturally, we will not participate in any legislative or executive institution linked to self-rule so that we will not bear the responsibility for signing an agreement that is incompatible with our doctrine and political program. Hamas, however, will participate in any elections to choose the Palestinian people's representatives provided those elections are not connected to the agreement or to

any preconditions that might divert the elections toward political goals that are inconsistent with our tendencies.

Al-Zahhar ruled out any clash between the Palestinian authority expected to be established in the occupied territories and Hamas. He said: We will endeavor to solve our problems on a personal level. In the event that any problem develops we will ask to meet with PLO officials or the authority to resolve the differences. [passage omitted]

Hamas: 'Major Operations' Against Israel Vowed

JN0601201194 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] In Amman, Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman in Jordan, has voiced the movement's determination to carry out major operations in the occupied territories. In an interview with the French magazine V.S. DAY [name as heard] published today, Nazzal said that the coming days will witness successive and escalating operations.

Nazzal indicated that since the signing of the Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel, the intifadah has acquired a new dimension represented by the use of automatic weapons and suicide operations. He stressed Hamas' refusal to cease-fire with the Israelis. He said that the movement is committed to continuing struggle against the Israeli occupation.

Hamas' Ghawshah Views Future of Resistance

NC0601131894 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Dec 93
p 14

[Interview with Hamas, Islamic Resistance Movement, official spokesman engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah by KEYHAN correspondent Hasan Khomehyar; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khomehyar] Some believe that the train carrying the solution to the Middle East dispute has reached the first station and that normalization of relations between Arabs and the Zionist regime in the political, economic, and cultural fields is imminent. How does Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] view these changes?

[Ghawshah] Permit me to state that what is being described as the peace train is a mere falsehood. What has really happened is that the Zionist enemy has managed to sign an agreement in the form of a "principled accord." This accord does not include a clause mandating its implementation and that implementation has been postponed. In lieu of this accord, the Zionist regime has practiced extortion on the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the countries of the world. It wants the Arabs to lift economic embargoes on Israel and to normalize relations. It demands economic assistance from Western countries. Therefore, what has happened up to now is not peace but a complete lie. On the other hand, the

accord has been evaluated and it has been proven to everyone that the elements of weakness and discord are greater than those for attaining power and prosperity.

[Khomehyar] As you have stated, we also concur that the accord is one of surrender and compromise. What is your concept of peace?

[Ghawshah] This accord is one-sided and the rights of one of the sides has not been taken into consideration. The Palestinian side signed the accord when it did not have any freedom of action. It can be said that the accord was dictated to it and it was forced to accept it. [passage omitted]

[Khomehyar] In view of the people's opposition to the Gaza-Jericho accord, what program do you have to defuse such opposition?

[Ghawshah] Following the reports on such an accord, the Palestinians were engulfed by a wave of astonishment. However, they soon recovered and the nation woke up to the treacherous nature of the plot and began to oppose it. On 13 September armed operations, especially martyrdom-seeking operations, proliferated among the combatant Palestinian youth.

In addition, many supporters of the Fatah movement also joined the fray in opposing the mounting suppression of the Palestinian revolutionaries by the Zionist soldiers and security forces. In the past three days anti-Zionist operations have risen noticeably; in just one day one of the mujahidin was martyred and 80 others were wounded. Therefore, it can be said that the people's opposition to the Gaza-Jericho accord has proliferated remarkably.

However, with regard to the 10 Palestinian factions, their current activities in the occupied areas are more in the fields of publications and politics rather than operations. Outside the occupied areas, no serious measure has been taken to create solidarity and political coordination. Nevertheless, all these groups should not be viewed in the same light as those, such as Hamas, that have never stopped their activities and do not wait for any unified or concerted decisions by the 10 factions. They continue their jihad and strategic struggle. [passage omitted]

[Khomehyar] 'Arafat is now seeking to mitigate the intense opposition of the various Palestinian groups to the Gaza-Jericho accord, and it is for this purpose that he met leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Mustafa Mashhur in Egypt and requested his mediation between you and him. The head of the Palestinian delegation to Madrid, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, also played the same role. How does Hamas view these efforts?

[Ghawshah] These are political tactics that the beleaguered 'Arafat resorts to constantly. The aware Islamic movements never fall prey to these deceptions. After signing the Gaza-Jericho accord on 20 August 1993, 'Arafat officially recognized the Zionist enemy and went

to Yemen. He requested that the president arrange a meeting between himself and Hamas, after which a Yemeni faction tried to mediate but Hamas rejected the overtures and announced that it would not meet 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, our Muslim Egyptian brothers met 'Arafat. Perhaps this meeting was arranged under certain circumstances that were imposed or merely conformed to the nature of the Egyptian regime. [sentence as published]. It is also possible that the Egyptian regime created the conditions for such a meeting. It is well known that Hamas officially conveyed its displeasure about this meeting to the Muslim Brotherhood. We told them that such a meeting was not necessary and that 'Arafat should not be given the opportunity to benefit from the support and cover of Islamists. [passage omitted]

[Khomehyar] The second Islamic Peoples' Conference is being convened in Khartoum because of the efforts of Hasan al-Turabi and some reports say that 'Arafat will participate. In view of the fact that the Sudanese have not adopted a clear stance on the 'Arafat-Rabin compromise, what is the Hamas position on this conference, especially on Hasan al-Turabi?

[Ghawshah] Allow me to speak clearly on this subject. Hamas was invited to participate in this conference. We were the founding members of this congress in April 1991, and I remember that the Islamic Republic of Iran was also a founding member. Hamas assessed the invitation in light of Sudan's political posture. There was a difference of opinion in the Hamas political bureau. One was that the conference should be boycotted because the Sudanese Government had tacitly supported the accord. In addition, the Sudanese Foreign Minister, as well as the director of the political desk at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, had declared their support of the 'Arafat-Rabin compromise. Similarly, the Sudanese representative to the Arab League had supported the compromise.

Al-Turabi statements have been conflicting. On the one hand he directly supported 'Arafat, but on the other he criticized many of the clauses in the accord. It was on this basis that some of the Hamas members opposed our participation in the Sudan conference.

Another group [in Hamas] believed that for the sake of expediency, after obtaining the actual stance of the Sudanese, we should participate in the conference, and a message was sent to Hasan al-Turabi by Hamas.

The other point is that Hasan al-Turabi assured us that the issue of the Gaza-Jericho accord would not be on the conference's agenda and that this issue would be delegated to the participating teams. It was on this basis that the Hamas political bureau decided to participate in this conference and to condemn the Gaza-Jericho accord at the Islamic Peoples' Conference in Sudan. We also agreed that if 'Arafat planned to participate we would boycott the conference. [passage omitted]

[Khomehyar] Will you participate in the autonomous elections scheduled for next year? What is your opinion on Shim'on Peres' remarks that if Hamas gains votes in the next elections they will be annulled?

[Ghawshah] These offensive remarks are a trait of the filthy and strategic propaganda of the Zionists. The PLO is also seeking to propound similar premises to deceive Hamas so that it can be dragged into the elections. The Hamas position is as follows:

First, as all are aware, the agreement on Gaza and Jericho has been signed for limited autonomy. It is possible that in the future it would include the West Bank and Gaza. Hamas rejects the Gaza-Jericho autonomy accord. It basically rejects the mechanism [preceding word in English] of autonomy since the elections are part of this mechanism for the implementation of autonomy. No movement can tolerate its principles being trampled underfoot and accept this mechanism. It is for this reason that Hamas has officially declared its opposition to the elections and has asked the people to boycott them, but not with violence. This is the final stance of Hamas, which has been adopted especially on the elections for autonomy, after extensive discussions among the movement's leaders.

[Khomehyar] It is feared that if the opponents of this compromise continue their course of action and support the intifadah, they will be hounded and suppressed. How do you see the future?

[Ghawshah] When one carries the banner of the jihad, he does not fear anything and has considered the consequences. He knows what price he will pay for his lawful obligations. [passage omitted]

We are aware that the United States is seeking to scorch the roots of Hamas. It is exerting pressure on Saudi Arabia to prevent the Saudi people's zakat [alms] from reaching Hamas. It has also asked Jordan to pressure Hamas and prevent its political and propaganda activities on Jordanian soil. It is also clear that the United States is pressuring Syria to limit the activities of the 10 factions.

We are confident that the noble countries and governments will not succumb to such pressure and blackmail and that the Muslim nations will continue to support the struggling Islamic movements of Palestine.

[Khomehyar] In your interview with the Beirut newspaper AL-DIYAR, you announced that a conference would be convened with the extensive participation of Islamic groups and factions so that a strategic stance for combating this plot could be adopted. In view of the fact that a conference like this was convened last year, what are your expectations of this kind of conference?

[Ghawshah] When I was interviewed by AL-DIYAR newspaper, I was very aware that, in cooperation with the 10 Palestinian factions, Hamas would be able to

establish a national and Islamic coalition for counter-acting the Gaza-Jericho accord. It was suggested that the conference should be held in Yemen or Syria, but it was postponed after some of the groups reviewed their decisions. We are optimistic that we can eliminate the obstacles in the near future and that, under the aegis of our common denominators, we will be able to attain complete cohesion and coordination.

I believe that this conference will be extremely important. In this manner, we will be able to prove to the world that the Palestinian nation is alive and can elect the leadership it wants.

[Khamahyar] Last week, King Husayn presented the Jordanian parliament with a plan to normalize relations with Israel, and the deputies unanimously supported this plan. If this plan is approved, will your position in Jordan be endangered?

[Ghawshah] Perhaps a majority of the deputies who were recently elected to the parliament agree with this plan, but one must await the outcome of the debates over the qualifications of these deputies. Don't forget that there is intense opposition to the normalization of relations with the Zionist regime among the people and the parliament of that country. Half of the people in Jordan are Palestinians, and recent polls prove that most of the people are opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord. We are aware that the Jordanian regime has accepted this accord because of pressure from the United States.

The Jordanians initially declared their opposition to the accord. But when Clinton's message, which mentioned economic pressure, reached the hands of the Jordanian officials, Jordan agreed to accept the accord.

Let us not forget that the Gaza-Jericho accord also threatens the interests of Jordan, which has been referred to as the substitute homeland for Palestine and as the ultimate homeland of the Palestinians, and the people are very aware of these threats.

What is your opinion of the recent letters and guidance that Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin sent from prison? He has agreed to participate in the legislative body that will be established after the elections. What is your appraisal of the matter?

[Ghawshah] We have received three letters from Shaykh Ahmad Yasin that were sent from prison. In the first letter, he gave the details of his meeting with Israeli legislator Talab al-Sani' [name as published]. In the second, he listed guidance for the Hamas forces and combatants. The third letter—which has generated a great deal of controversy—dealt with the current situation, the Gaza-Jericho accord, the PLO, and the fate of the Palestine issue. In this letter, Shaykh Yasin stressed that the Gaza-Jericho accord is an accord of degradation and surrender and that the PLO has destroyed the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian nation. He refers to the so-called legislative body and accepts participation in elections. It is for this reason that this letter has plunged

us into doubt and ambivalence. Everyone is aware that Ahmad Yasin rejects autonomy and that he is paralyzed and cannot write letters. He needs another person to write what he dictates. The Hamas councils are currently investigating the letters to establish their authenticity.

Husayn Speeches, Qaddumi Visit to Amman Viewed

TA0601170894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Palestinian-Jordanian Coordination"]

[Text] Palestinian-Arab relations remain one of the most important pillars that are supposed to be firm and sound and which can be relied on during all crises and dangers confronting the Palestinian cause at present and in the future. The Arab dimension of this cause represented and continues to represent a strategic and moral weight for the Palestinian people, who will never renounce their Arab affiliation and will not allow transitory events to instill doubts in them about or weaken their faith in the common pan-Arab destiny which links them with the other peoples of the Arab nation.

In this context, Palestinian-Jordanian relations derive additional importance. Jordan has been linked to Palestine with a close fraternal bond which has been enhanced socially, politically, and in terms of population. One can say, without exaggeration, that this relationship or bond has reached the stage of inter-family cohesion, whereby it seems impossible to split this link without almost fatal consequences for the two fraternal people.

Although neither the Palestinian nor the Jordanian side has precisely explained the reasons for the misunderstanding between them other than what was stated in the Jordanian monarch's two speeches, from which one can discern the emphasis placed on the importance of prompt coordination between the two leaderships, apparently the speeches' reverberations invoked a rational understanding by the Palestinian side. Hence, the visit by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, to Amman. This visit reflects the Palestinian leadership's eagerness to preserve the special fraternal relationship with Jordan and develop it in the interest of the two brotherly people and the future of the Arab nation.

It is certain that adopting an approach of openness and frankness, overcoming the difficulties, and clarifying any misunderstandings that occur constitute a healthy and correct basis for any sort of coordination between the two parties. If at present the PLO is experiencing negotiating problems with Israel, one of the priorities of the Palestinian and Jordanian sides is to exchange views, coordinate positions in a climate of mutual trust, remove suspicions, and clear the climate. This is the only way for enhancing the two sides' negotiating stance vis-a-vis Israel with the aim of reaching a just and comprehensive settlement aspired for by the two sides and the entire Arab nation.

Algeria

Government-UGTA Negotiations Updated

LD0601202894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The tough negotiations held yesterday between the government and representatives of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] included numerous trade union issues relating to the national economy in general and centered on workers' demands such as increasing the basic wage to 4,000 dinars. The government has given no details on these negotiations, which were held in closed sessions. However, the UGTA has given the government until 15 January to respond favorably to its demands, according to a statement released by the trade union. It seems that as far as these demands are concerned Abdelhak Benhamouda [UGTA secretary general] has not obtained satisfaction. This is at least what can be inferred from the tone of the statement released by the UGTA, which says that the negotiations have not given any results.

Over to Rachid Ould Mohand with a summary of the statement:

[Ould Mohand] In its statement, the UGTA says that the meeting between the government and the trade union has not given any results and that both sides stuck to their positions. The points of disagreement are the refusal of the government to increase the basic wage to 4,000 Algerian dinars in all sectors of activity in 1994. The trade union stressed its position by demanding an increase in wages if prices of consumer goods were to rise. The government expressed its readiness to create a national unemployment fund and examine other problems such as partial retirement [as heard], which is one of the trade union's demands. The trade union has set 15 January as a deadline for the government to meet all its demands.

According to the UGTA statement, the government has also pledged to set up a joint commission between the trade union and the Education Ministry next week to reexamine the law concerning teachers. The government also promised to pay 147 billion centimes to the Federation of Education Workers to cover the cost of social services and to open financial posts [as heard] for teachers suffering from work-related illnesses until these illnesses are included in the national list of work-related illnesses. Finally, the government has also pledged to pay teachers for the days they went on strike or to pay them back if their pay had been docked.

Suspect Behind Killing of 12 Croats Identified

NC0601142594 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Algiers, Jan 6 (AFP)—Algerian security officials have identified the man behind last month's massacre of

12 Croats at Tamezguida south of the Algerian capital as Sayeh Attia, the EL WATAN daily reported Thursday [6 January].

Security forces have arrested Attia's father-in-law, named only as Bouchakor in the report, charging him with sheltering the armed gang after the December 15 killings, and have recovered stolen goods.

Attia was reported to have led an armed band for more than a year and to be responsible for more than 200 attacks. He has been implicated in an assault on the Bougezel barracks, 150 kilometres (90 miles) south of here, which left 19 soldiers dead, EL WATAN said.

The 12 Croatian expatriate workers, employed by the Croatian company Hydro-Elektra, had their throats cut by a gang of about 30 people, near the dam they were helping build 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Algiers.

Last year, foreigners accused of cooperating with the Algerian government became the target of Moslem extremists waging war against the regime since the cancellation in January 1992 of elections the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

Egypt

Musa Welcomes Resumed PLO-Israeli Negotiations

NC0701105994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the Israeli and PLO decision to resume negotiations on implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord next week.

In a statement made today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed his hope that the two sides will reach an agreement to implement the Declaration of Principles signed between them in letter and spirit.

He emphasized the need to realize the goals of the declaration: Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho according to the agreement, establishing Palestinian authority, and an agreement on the security measures stipulated in the declaration. He also affirmed the need to pave the way for future steps toward establishing self-rule in all the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and prepare for the final negotiations in two years.

Paper Alleges U.S. Role in al-Kikhya Abduction

NC0701102294 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Dec 93 p 4

[Article by Mustafa Bakri: "Legitimate Questions About the al-Kikhya Issue"]

[Excerpts] The issue of the disappearance of prominent Libyan opposition figure Mansur al-Kikhya has grown suddenly over the last few days. It has become the talk of the public and the intellectuals, overshadowing all other regional and international issues. The question that is

being asked in every house is who killed or kidnapped Mansur al-Kikhya? [passage omitted]

The question is: Did Libya kill or kidnap Mansur al-Kikhya? At first glance, we can say yes on the basis that the Libyan regime has a vital interest in the disappearance of al-Kikhya. But after scrutinizing the situation, we find ourselves facing various possibilities.

First of all, it is illogical that Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi or one of his agencies would resort to this criminal act at this specific time, when the international crisis against Libya is boiling and reaching its peak and while al-Qadhafi is trying hard to acquit his country of the Lockerbie incident.

If we say that al-Qadhafi did it, after realizing that the U.S. Administration saw al-Kikhya as a suitable substitute to take power and succeed al-Qadhafi in Libya, would it be illogical for al-Qadhafi to sacrifice his relations with Egypt? Al-Qadhafi has wagered on these relations even at the expense of disagreeing with some of his comrades in the Revolution Command Council. He has worked to cultivate these relations despite the regional events that have come between Egypt and Libya. I personally believe that al-Qadhafi was not ready to sacrifice his relations with Egypt, and particularly with President Mubarak, by kidnapping a Libyan opposition figure who has only his tongue and a pen.

Even if we agree that al-Qadhafi had decided to sacrifice his relations with Egypt and President Mubarak and did this deed, how could al-Kikhya have been smuggled out amid the strict security measures on the border between the two countries? Could al-Kikhya have been kidnapped from his hotel so easily and without an uproar or shouts for help?

In the midst of conflicting reports, we have forgotten to discuss the real beneficiary of the disappearance of al-Kikhya, particularly in Egyptian territory. We have forgotten Israel and the United States. Both countries have a common interest in striking at the Egyptian-Libyan relations, which have stood fast despite the strong winds blowing on them over the past few years.

If we concede from the start that the United States is using all means to subjugate Libya and that one of the basic methods to do this is to tighten the suffocating blockade on it and if we agree that Egypt with its status, prestige, and common border with Libya still represents a support for the Jamahiriya, why shouldn't the United States fabricate an incident that would force the regime in Egypt to sever its relations with Libya, at the least, or push it into war to overthrow the Libyan regime, in the most extreme case.

The experience in Somalia was a lesson for the United States. The U.S. air bombardment of Iraq did not succeed in overthrowing President Saddam Husayn's regime. Only a ground war or an internal coup could change the situation. But because the United States does not want to dispatch its troops to a new swamp, their

solution was to find another state that would do the job for it—especially since the United States has failed to change the regime through military coups. Certainly, the United States could only use Egypt, which, because of the size and equipment of its forces and its strategic location, could achieve what others could not. In addition, this would serve the U.S. and Israeli goals of starting a war among the sons of the nation to ultimately serve the Zionist aims.

I also believe that the search recently focused on finding a justification, especially after al-Qadhafi refused to relinquish his country's sovereignty and decided not to turn over the Lockerbie suspects.

The justification was Egypt's dignity. The Americans decided on a plan to kidnap al-Kikhya from Egyptian territory and to accuse the Libyan regime of doing the kidnapping. This would provoke the people to condemn the perpetrators of this act and then matters would escalate.

In fact, a state of resentment has spread among the masses, especially since some newspapers have jumped to conclusions and have started leveling accusations at the Libyan regime, demanding that it be disciplined and that Egypt's squandered dignity be avenged.

Thus the situation remains the same. Matters continue to escalate. Despite the Libyan denial and the Egyptian Government's belief that Libya is not behind this crime, some people remain determined to fan the fire and involve themselves in the scenario of the hellish U.S. game. [passage omitted]

Thus, we must warn against falling into this new trap, this wicked plan that is aimed at igniting the fire of war between the Arab people in Egypt and Libya. This is an abominable crime into which we must not be pushed. We must force those who are playing with the country's national security to stop and realize that the eruption of war under the pretext of disciplining al-Qadhafi is the U.S.-Zionist plan.

Despite all this, we call on the government to spare no effort in searching for the Libyan opposition figure and to remove the ambiguity surrounding his disappearance.

'Political Sources' on Iranian-Egyptian Contacts

NC0601213194 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Dec 93
pp 1, 9

[Text] Political sources have told AL-SHA'B that a meeting will be held at ambassadorial level between Egypt and Iran in the Syrian capital, Damascus, in the next few days. The meeting was arranged in the wake of Egyptian-Iranian contacts held at the level of charge d'affaires in the past few weeks to reach an agreement on the basic principles for a return to normality in Egyptian-Iranian relations.

According to the sources, the Iranian officials agreed to a proposed agenda of the meetings within a framework that would bring the views closer.

During recent meetings, Iranian officials submitted memoranda in reaction to accusations leveled at some Iranian elements by the Egyptian authorities that they harbor, train, and finance violent groups in Egypt. This issue will have priority in the upcoming talks. The second item on the agenda will focus on regional security issues, particularly Gulf security and relevant issues. One of the principles established during previous contacts was that there is no conflict between the Egyptian and Iranian concepts of regional security.

The sources affirm that Egypt and Iran have agreed to maintain secrecy on their communications and the topics under discussion until results are actually achieved.

Sidqi Comments on Economic Issues, Terrorism

NC0701064294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that President Mubarak has given instructions to prepare an integrated program for the development of Sinai utilizing its various mineral, tourist, and agricultural resources.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM that will be published tomorrow, Friday, Dr. Sidqi affirmed that the president is keen to observe the strategic factor in the development of Sinai.

He noted that, over the next few days, the president will meet with the executive leadership to discuss the possible impact of the GATT agreement on the Egyptian economy.

The prime minister affirmed that the government will intensify its administrative reform efforts in the coming years. He explained that this reform means that negligent persons and those who cause a drop in production will be deprived of incentives.

Sidqi said that the state will make an effort to decide annual wage increases to cope with inflation, although its rates dropped to 9.4 percent last December. He explained that wage increases will be stipulated in a law that will be issued in mid- or late June, when the state budget is prepared.

Sidqi affirmed that opening the economy makes it easier to exchange products. He said that imports are necessary to export the surplus in Egyptian products. He explained that the customs tariffs were decreased to be in line with world policies.

The prime minister affirmed that the state does not overlook corruption. Every single case of corruption is reported and followed up, regardless of the status of those involved in it, he stressed.

Touching on the issue of unemployment, the prime minister said that the only solution is to expand production to provide job opportunities. He noted that the private sector offers increasing job opportunities for youth.

Responding to a question on government extravagance, Sidqi told AL-AHRAM that spending is conducted within the limits of the ministries' tasks and functions and the heavy burden the state shoulders in the services sector.

Commenting on the terrorism phenomenon, Sidqi said that the government is serious about its quest to obliterate this phenomenon and that it has allocated large funds for the development of shanty towns. Irrefutable evidence recently proved that the terrorists have connections with foreign elements, he said. He emphasized that dialogue does not work against terrorism committed by persons with criminal inclinations who are incited by local or foreign elements. I have to protect society against anyone who carries a machine gun or a pistol, he said.

Government Said Preparing Campaign in Asyut

NC0601212994 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Dec 93 p 1

[Report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi]

[Excerpt] AL-SHA'B has learned that the government is preparing a large-scale military campaign in the Governorate of Asyut. Tanks and aircraft will be involved in the pursuit of fugitives whom the government believes were behind recent acts of violence in the governorate.

Originally scheduled for last week, the campaign was postponed—and might be deferred again—until the end-of-the-year tourism season is over. [passage omitted]

Libya

Deal Said Struck To Pay Russia To Use UN Veto

NC0501182994 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p 13

[Report by Wa'il al-Ibrashi]

[Text] Libyan diplomatic sources have revealed that the fugitive Egyptian millionaire Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy, who lives in Greece, was the main middleman in an abortive deal between Libya and Russia before the recent UN Security Council resolution was issued.

The sources said Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Hayy maintained close relations with the Russian ambassador in Greece and introduced him to Libyan officials. Libya was to pay Russia \$1.8 billion immediately in return for Russia using its veto when the draft resolution to impose new sanctions against Libya came up for voting at the UN Security Council. The deal failed because Russia wanted the money paid before it used the veto. Libya suspected that Russia would take the money and consider it part

repayment for Libyan debts to Russia and would not use the veto. Libya transferred just \$65 million and the deal failed.

It is known that the fugitive millionaire, who is wanted in Egypt, maintains close relations with 'Abdallah al-Sanusi, a close aide to al-Qadhdhafi and the man responsible for his security.

ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that the Libyan Council of Ministers recently submitted to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a memorandum demanding an investigation into all the funds paid to middlemen to solve the Lockerbie crisis without result.

Mauritania

Independent Labor Union Movement Recognized

AB0601164094 Paris AFP in French 1733 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Nouakchott, 5 Jan (AFP)—It was learned in Nouakchott today from a labor union source that the General Confederation of Labor of Mauritania [CGTM], the first independent labor union movement, was officially recognized yesterday. The source states that this legalization is in line with the provisions of the new Mauritanian constitution which recognizes labor union pluralism. The source adds that the recognition has occurred after more than a year of legal battles.

The CGTM is based on the unique labor union movement that has existed in the country since its independence, that is, the government-backed Mauritania Labor Union.

The leaders of the new labor union movement are mainly close to the opposition. They are suggesting immediately undertaking a large-scale campaign to install their sections in all the country's socioeconomic and administrative sectors.

Morocco

Marrakech To Host GATT Signing Ceremony

LD0601224194 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Excerpts] A meeting was held today to discuss the various aspects of the final agreement reached on the Uruguay talks.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mourad Cherif, minister of foreign trade, foreign investments, and handicrafts. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Mr. Mourad Cherif, minister of foreign trade, foreign investments, and handicrafts, made the following statement:

[Begin Cherif recording] Since 1986, the member states of GATT have been holding the Uruguay talks. These

negotiations ended on 15 December last year with an agreement which will be signed on 15 April this year.

It honors me to announce that the choice of the participating parties has fallen on the city of Marrakech to host the trade ministers' meeting during April this year. That was in response to a proposal by His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious. The final agreement of the Uruguay rounds will be signed during this meeting and the birth of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will be announced.

This choice is proof of confidence in and excellence of our country on the international sphere, and puts the seal on our encouraging and recorded economic achievements during a decade of structural reform. [passage omitted]

The success of the Uruguay rounds, God willing, will add (?100) billion dollars to world revenue until the year 2000, according to a study carried out by the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The reduction in tariffs which the participating parties will give will enable Moroccan goods to enter foreign markets. The signing of the agreement in the city of Marrakech will give positive and important results to the Moroccan economy in general and our exports in particular. [end recording]

Sudan

Government-Rebel Peace Talks To Open in Nairobi

AB0601191094 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Nairobi, Jan 6 (AFP)—Representatives of Khartoum's Islamic fundamentalist government were to open Kenyan-brokered talks with rebels from mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan here Friday [6 January], officials said.

Leaders of the two rival factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) told the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, on Monday that they were committed to peace.

John Garang, leader of the mainstream SPLA faction, and Riek Machar of the breakaway SPLA United group met the archbishop after his controversial trip to famine-stricken rebel-held southern Sudan prompted a major diplomatic row between Khartoum and London.

But despite the rebels' assurances, western diplomats were sceptical about the outcome of the talks, hosted by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi as chairman of a six-member regional group, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development.

Sudanese Government and rebel delegates held inconclusive talks in Nairobi last year after Nigerian-mediated negotiations failed to bring peace to famine-ravaged

southern Sudan, a vast undeveloped region of savannah and swampland twice the size of France.

After informal consultations on Wednesday and Thursday, the talks were to open formally on Friday, the officials said.

The SPLA United faction wants a referendum on secession of the south from the Arabic-speaking Islamic north, while Garang's group would prefer to preserve Sudanese unity.

Relief officials here said government warplanes had made several bombing raids on the south in the past two weeks amid fears that Khartoum is poised to launch a major new offensive.

Official Denies Holding Russian Plane Crew

EA0601182094 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo 6 Jan (SUNA)—Brigadier al-Tijani Khalifah, director of air operations at the Civil Aviation Authority, is currently on a visit to Cairo. Yesterday he stated that the Russian Antonov aircraft, which is on hire to certain quarters in Sudan, and whose Russian crew fled with it last week and landed at Luxor Airport, had been carrying foodstuffs belonging to the World Food Program from al-Ubayyid to Bahr al-Ghazal. In a news conference he held in Cairo, he said that the aircraft arrived in Sudan in accordance with a commercial contract with a Sudanese commercial aviation company, and that the Sudanese Government was not a party to the contract.

Brig. al-Tijani Khalifah denied the claims of the aircraft crew, published by the Egyptian press, that Sudanese authorities had been holding the aircraft. He said: We in Sudan did not imprison any crew in Sudan. He pointed out that there were six sets of foreign crews for air transport in the country.

Tunisia

Security Cooperation Accord Signed With Egypt

NC0601105894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Tunis, 6 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Tunisia today signed an agreement for security cooperation between the two countries. The agreement provides for security coordination; the exchange of information, expertise, and visits; and cooperation in the fields of combating terrorism, violence, and other crimes. Under the agreement, Egypt will benefit from the Tunisian experience in combating terrorism.

Egyptian Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and his Tunisian counterpart Abdallah Kallel signed the agreement at the Tunisian Interior Ministry. The Egyptian-Tunisian joint security committee concluded its meetings, which were held on the sidelines of the Arab interior ministers' meeting, last night. The new agreement seeks to upgrade the security agreement concluded last year and promote bilateral coordination in security matters, particularly efforts to combat terrorism, violence, and religious extremism.

Defense Minister Meets Turkish Counterpart

LD0601174694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] National Defense Minister Abdelaziz Ben Dhia held talks this morning with his Turkish counterpart Mehmet Golhan, who started his official visit to Tunisia yesterday. During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed a number of issues of common interest, particularly those relating to bilateral relations.

After the talks, the two ministers attended the opening of the proceedings of the Joint Military Committee that will examine several aspects of Tunisian-Turkish cooperation in the military field. On this occasion, the two ministers highlighted the importance of this committee and stressed the understanding that always prevailed during its meetings. This, they said, allowed the development of bilateral cooperation in this field and opened new avenues.

Kuwait

Minister Denies Involvement in Yemeni Affairs

LD0701114694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Doha, 7 Jan—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has revealed in press statements published here that he will visit Yemen, but did not mention the date of the visit.

In statements to the Qatari press reported by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA], Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the program of his foreign tour included a visit to Yemen, but the current conditions that Yemen was experiencing did not allow this visit.

He added "when these conditions end and disappear I will visit Sanaa."

The first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs expressed regrets over current events in Yemen. He also expressed regrets and astonishment for the rumors implicating Kuwait in the rift and dispute between north and south Yemen, saying that this is void of truth and a mere fabrication.

He pointed out that Kuwait is very far removed from the dispute that the state of Yemen is currently experiencing and this matter "hurts us very much." [passage omitted]

Yemen

Tribesmen Kidnap U.S. Oil Company Workers

NC0701090894 Paris AFP in English 0805 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Sanaa, Jan 7 (AFP)—Yemeni tribesmen have kidnapped a Canadian, Briton and four Yemenis working for the US firm Hunt Oil, company engineers said Friday.

A group from the Daham tribe prevented the six from taking off in their helicopter Tuesday after they inspected a pumping station in the Ma'rib region 100 kilometres (60 miles) east of here.

The Yemeni authorities were trying to negotiate the release of the helicopter pilot and five engineers, informed sources said in Sanaa.

Islamic Jihad Leaders Reportedly Kidnapped

NC0701085594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 3 Jan 94 p 13

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned that a special security team last week kidnapped three Islamic Jihad leaders from Sanaa after receiving information that they had moved there under the protection of the Islamic Jihad in Yemen.

Cabinet Endorses Measures To Remedy Situation

JN0601135994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a regular session under First Deputy Prime Minister brother Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki this morning.

At the outset of the session, the Council of Ministers reviewed and endorsed the decisions it debated during its previous session.

The Council devoted this session to debating the homeland's economic situation, including the results of the meeting held among representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Supply and Trade, the Central Bank of Yemen, commercial banks, and the Union of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The Council endorsed urgent executive measures to remedy and mitigate the economic problems in the country. The Council also reviewed instructions addressed by the Presidential Council to the brother prime minister and government ministers, urging them to shoulder their responsibilities to rapidly address the difficult living conditions and supply situation being experienced by citizens, and to ease their exacerbating problems.

The Council was also apprised of a report submitted by Education Minister Dr. Abu-Bakr al-Qirbi on the visit he made to Washington for negotiations with the IMF on the 11th investment loan to be used in financing the educational sector, which has been initiated. The report also covered the consultations he held with World Bank officials. The Council was also briefed on a similar report submitted by Public Health Minister brother Dr. Najib Ghanim on his recent visit to Turkey, which took place during the period 21-26 December, during which a Yemeni-Turkish health agreement was signed. This agreement aims to advance bilateral coordination and cooperation in the areas of health and curative medicine. It also provides for exchanging technical expertise between Yemen and Turkey, particularly in the field of advanced technical training.

Salih Holds Cabinet 'Fully Responsible'

JN0701114094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jan 94

["Text" of message addressed by the Presidential Council to Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-Attas and cabinet members on 6 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Brother Engineer Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-Attas, brother esteemed members of the Council of Ministers: You must be aware of the deteriorating economic situation in our country and that the majority of citizens are suffering in their daily lives as a result of the escalating price hikes, sharp and continued deterioration of the value of the national currency, and the accompanying funding shortages affecting most basic

commodities and supplies. All this has taken place very rapidly in front of the government's eyes.

In view of our citizens' deteriorating living conditions, difficulties, and suffering, it is a violation of your government's constitutional and national responsibility to be indifferent toward these conditions and to fail to adopt the required measures to tackle them. Motivated by its national duty and historic responsibility, the Presidential Council addresses this message to you to place you before your responsibilities toward the continued deterioration of the economic and administrative situation and toward citizens' difficult living conditions. Also, there has been noticeable failure to draw up and implement a clear and sound supply, financial, and monetary policy. The Government has also failed to activate the existing laws to curb illegitimate currency speculation, stop price increases, and prevent monopolies. All that has resulted in a great increase in inflation rates, high unemployment, and low wages and incomes. In addition, the state's facilities and departments have witnessed general laxity, carelessness, and negligence. There has also been a noticeable drop in the level of job performance in the state's administrative system and institutions. All the above points are at the heart of the tasks and duties which your esteemed government should have carried out in accordance with the Constitution and in implementation of the policy statement on the bases of which it won the House of Representatives' vote of confidence. All the masses of our Yemeni people looked to you with hope and confidence that you would devote all your efforts and energies to implement that statement to overcome the shortcomings of the transitional period and the failures that accompanied it and to firmly establish the pillars of the modern Yemeni state.

Aware of these regrettable conditions, and of the growing suffering that their exacerbation would cause to citizens, the Presidential Council, during its session of 23 December 1993, invited your esteemed government for a joint meeting with the Presidential Council to discuss the current political crisis and the economic situation and to examine ways of tackling that situation. However, most regrettably, the Presidential Council was surprised to receive the brother prime minister's message No. 6/1,241 of 26 December 1993, which conveys an apology for not attending the meeting on the date set by the Presidential Council. Meanwhile, the repercussions of the crisis were escalating and becoming more serious, thus increasing citizens' suffering to such an extent that any delay was intolerable. Suddenly, the national currency plunged to low and serious levels. This coincided with a general paralysis in the state's departments and facilities and with an absence of the government's role. In view of that situation, we hold you fully responsible for the deteriorating situation and for all its repercussions and harmful effects on citizens' interests and the homeland's stability.

Brother Prime Minister, Brother Ministers: The homeland is passing through a crucial, historic juncture and works to firmly establish the pillars of its existence and

boost its promising march toward a prosperous future, God willing. Thanks to the will of the strugglers and the efforts of all its sincere sons, our homeland was able on 22 May 1990 to revive a gigantic unity which won the world's admiration and respect. All this requires that you stand with responsibility, faithfulness, and sincerity in front of your consciences and responsibility and to side with the issues and interests of your homeland and people and to place the supreme national interest above all selfish interests and all narrow affiliations. If, at any moment, you surrender to such affiliations, the homeland will gain nothing but loss, and you will gain nothing from that but the dissatisfaction of your people, who had expected much from you. You are today before a historic and national responsibility which you should not fail to carry, whatever the justifications may be. We in the Presidential Council will be a support for you inasmuch as you will be a support for yourselves and sincere to your responsibilities and homeland in order to honor the trust and reform the duty.

May God grant you success and help everyone in the interest of Yemen and its progress and prosperity under the banner of unity and democracy. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

Opposition Parties Withdraw From Talks Committee

PM0601115494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Withdrawal of Yemeni Opposition From Dialogue Committee"]

[Excerpt] Aden—All parties taking part in the Political Dialogue Committee have withdrawn from the committee with the exception of the representatives of the ruling tripartite coalition (the Yemeni Socialist Party, the General People's Congress, and the Reform Grouping).

The Dialogue Committee had come a long way when it resumed its meetings in Aden last Sunday but representatives of the opposition parties felt that there was what they called "procrastination, dithering, and time-wasting" by the Yemeni Socialist Party and the General People's Congress at the meetings held the day before yesterday.

The withdrawn parties include the opposition's National Bloc parties, Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, the Patriotic Forces Union, the Ba'th Party, representatives of the "Yemeni Revolution's Fighters," and the September Party representative Brigadier General Ahmad Qarhash. These parties decided to hold a meeting this evening to take a clear and decisive stance on the issues under discussion and on the dialogue itself.

Some partisan sources have accused some members of the coalition, whom they declined to name, of using the time factor to foil the dialogue and carry out previous designs.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the withdrawing parties and figures would announce a resolution to the effect that "there should either be a dialogue aimed at achieving good and tangible results or no dialogue at all, in which case the coalition parties obstructing the dialogue will be held fully responsible." [passage omitted]

Death of 5 Military Personnel Announced

JN0601181594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Excerpt] To the righteous soul will be said: O thou soul, in complete rest and satisfaction, come back thou to thy lord, well pleased thyself, and well-pleasing unto him. Enter thou, then, among my devotees. Yea, enter thou my heaven. [koranic verse]

The Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces General Staff Command regret to announce the martyrdom of [name indistinct]; Major Salih Husayn; Maj. 'Ali 'Ali [surname indistinct]; Lieutenant Husni Muhammad

Qa'id; Chief Warrant Officer [name indistinct]. They died on Tuesday, in the Province of [name indistinct] as a result of [word indistinct].

A military investigation committee has been set up to try to find the cause and motive behind this painful incident.

As the Ministry announces the death of the martyrs and extends condolences to their families, it declares that it will remain committed to their (?families) and recognition of their role and (?practical) duty and their patriotic services to the Armed Forces.

May the martyrs enjoy God's mercy and end up in his paradise, and may he grant their relatives patience and solace. We belong to God, and to him we return.

It is to be recalled that [words indistinct] in the Lahaj Governorate, the bodies of the five martyrs were found in scattered places, four already dead. The fifth was admitted to the [word indistinct] military hospital, where he died of his wounds.

Brother Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, minister of defense, has set up an inquiry to investigate the incident and determine the identity of the culprits. [passage omitted]

Saddam Addresses Army Commanders 6 Jan
JN0601171994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1514 GMT 6
Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has said: We are sincere in our stand on Palestine. We are faithful and sincere in our stand on every Arab issue.

These remarks were made when his excellency received the fighter members of the General Command of the Armed Forces and senior military commanders here today. They came to extend congratulations to him on the 73d anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army. His excellency added: You must not commit historic mistakes. Everything can be amended, except history.

On this occasion, President Saddam Husayn addressed fighters: the Americans are always deluded. They were deluded during their 30-state aggression, they were deluded in Somalia, and will be deluded again. This is because not only will the evil-minded suffer the consequences of his evil deeds, but also the conceited one. If such an individual is both evil-minded and conceited, he will inevitably suffer the consequences.

His excellency said: Our plans were to be in the southern region of Iraq and to lure the enemy troops into urban Iraqi areas and cities so that we could put them through the worst. However, what happened was that the enemy did not enter our territory. Besides, some people did not give themselves and their people the chance to play this role. It is true that the enemy did not enter Iraq as we had planned for it, but a clash was possible. In such a case, it would have been possible to drag the enemy into the death traps that we had planned for it. At that time, the Iranians did their known misdeed, and the evil ones rallied around the treacherous Iranian act. Consequently, fires broke out in most areas in Iraq.

His excellency said: The United States announced a unilateral cease-fire. I am saying the United States because it is actually the party that assembled the evil gathering along with its evil supporters, who bear Arab nationalities. It is the party that created that momentous evil gathering with its known intentions to commit its misdeed.

President Saddam Husayn said: At that time, I recall, they said that we should confirm the cease-fire, which they announced unconditionally and unilaterally, except for self-defense if they were attacked by the Iraqis. We said: Okay, let us do that. They said: Send your envoys to a U.S. ship, the name of which I cannot remember. It was anchored in the Arabian Gulf.

His excellency went on: These contacts were between diplomats. The idea was to spare military personnel the hassle of dealing with these details, in order to free them for their goals. The Foreign Ministry sent me a memorandum to the effect that the Americans asked the then

Soviets, or rather ordered the then Soviets, to tell us through their foreign minister that the Americans want Iraqi military personnel who represented the Iraqi side against 28 armies to report to such-and-such a vessel in the Gulf. They used such language as to show that they were not making a suggestion to an equal but sending us a summons. I believe they specified the position of the ship. The Americans said they would arrange for our military personnel's transport to the ship. Here I want to remind them of a historic error, which they ought to have not made.

His excellency added: At that time, through which all of you lived, and, therefore, remember, the state of our domestic front was the most difficult. As for our external front, the situation was not that difficult. They were foreigners with whom we were engaged in battle. We were not too concerned about whether they had more weapons than we did. What really disturbed us was to see an overlap of ditches and confusion between people who call themselves Iraqis but take orders from foreigners and [words indistinct] in the pain we felt in our hearts. We were confronted with such a memorandum, I mean the American asking us to report to them, and the Americans always submit to illusions.

At that time, the Americans thought that an opportunity presented itself for them to make us commit a historic error. Just imagine Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, operation assistant for the Army chief of staff, and Staff Lt. Gen. Salah 'Abbud, commander of the 3d Corps, who had the rank of major general then, and other military comrades and staff officers, appearing on American television screens... Imagine military footage showing your military comrades on their way to the American ship to conduct negotiations with the Americans.

For our part, we said the negotiations will not take place on an American ship. I said: You have to choose between two sites where the negotiations may be held—either in the Safwan region at the (Tal-Julaydah) Airport or at any other point along the Iraqi-Saudi border. In the end, they settled for one of the two places.

His excellency added: When they chose the place, it met with our approval. Staff Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad, along with Lt. Gen. Salah 'Abbud and other staff officers, went there. When they were about to go into the tent where the negotiations were to be held, they were surprised...

His excellency added: Let us pause here. Before Staff Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad went to meet with the enemies, we contacted him and told him: You are the victors. I told the messenger who carried the message: Give my greetings to Staff Lt. Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad and to all the comrades in the General Command. I think that Staff Gen. Husayn Rashid was the Army chief of staff and that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid was at the time engaged on the battlefield. Since there was no means to get in touch with you, I told the carrier of the message to tell our comrades that they are the victors.

President Saddam Husayn went on: I have laid emphasis on this aspect for psychological reasons. I know how they think, but I chose to emphasize this point in case they might think that victory was not theirs or that victory was not as it should have been. Of course, victory as one plans and wishes it to be is one thing, and victory in the historical sense, which I mean here, is another. It was a third world war. Iraq was on one side and the world, save what God wished, was on the other. When I say the world, I mean the political leaders and administrations. I do not mean the peoples, even those who were made to believe that they were fighting for a good cause. I told him to stress that Iraq was the victor, that the Army of Iraq achieved victory, and that our comrade leaders who will go now to negotiate with the enemy have achieved victory. They will see how the enemy will bow their heads down, if they have any shame left as military commanders. When the representatives of 28 armies, three of which are superpowers, do not feel their defeat when the representatives of one army sit with them at the same table, then those who still cherish some of the meanings of the military code—which basically stress manliness and knighthood—will be ashamed of themselves, even if they have no humanitarian traits left. Those people will feel that they are drowning in shame as they sit on those chairs to represent 28 armies in the face of a single army. All these well-known countries, and others who were not probably revealed properly, stood in the face of one country, which is known in terms of its size, population, economy, industry, and agriculture.

He added: Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, who is known, along with his comrades, for sound military conduct, went to meet them. It should have been very clear to the enemy that Staff Lt. Gen. Sultan and his comrades were the victors. When he and his comrades arrived at the door of the tent, he was surprised when they asked him to take off his weapon before entering the negotiating tent. He replied: I will not take off my weapon before the other party removes its weapon. Who will speak on behalf of the 28 armies? Schwarzkopf answered him in apparent confusion, as Staff Lt. Gen. Sultan told me: I represent them. He said: Then take off your weapon. And he did. Then came the turn of Staff Lt. Gen. Salah 'Abbud, who asked who the second man was. He was told that the man was Sultan. But how great a difference is there between Sultan and Sultan. They meant Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, since the West calls a person by the name of his father or his title. So this Sultan was the second person who represents the state of his majesty. He told them: Tell Khalid Bin-Sultan to throw his weapon away before the second man in the Iraqi delegation throws his weapon away. Schwarzkopf called Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan and asked his men to send quickly for him. Then Khalid Bin-Sultan came hurriedly, and Schwarzkopf asked him to take his weapon off, even though he is a prince. So he did. Afterward, Staff Lt. Gen. Salah 'Abbud entered without his weapon.

His excellency said: At that time, with its well-known atmosphere, I told them that the minutes of the meeting

should be written down and officially signed, in addition to recording it on an audio tape. We are saying this in order that you pay attention to the details that may seem very trivial and may have no historical significance. We, however, did not forget to mention these details despite those circumstances. The comrades requested that the minutes of the meeting be recorded, and they received a copy of the recording. Speaking of this issue, I would like you to make 200 more copies, so there will not be a single copy. I do not know whether they wrote down official minutes or whether they were content with this recording. Of course, this is apart from the cease-fire minutes, which were also written down and signed.

President Saddam Husayn added: Suppose that we now show two pictures of our comrades while heading for the U.S. ship, assuming that the historic mistake was actually made. Some may say that there is no harm in heading for this ship. They may also wonder: Why do you want to complicate the issue of holding that meeting aboard a ship or elsewhere? We, however, say: Such an issue is greatly significant and may have an impact for hundreds of years, if not for thousands of years. If we now show your children two pictures on the television screen, one having our own description, and the other having the description the enemy wanted at the very beginning, what impact would each of the two pictures have on the people's psychological makeup? I believe that this is understood.

His excellency continued: Regrettably, among the painful matters in Arab politics is the fact that when an Arab ruler wants to resolve an issue, he asks the whole world to join him in signing a humiliating document. All right, you are in a weak position on a certain issue, and you decided to take a weak position. But you should let others be in a strong position as a guarantee for you if you later plan to retreat from this weak position and take a strong position, at which time you will find someone who will protect you, shelter you, back you, and understand you. Why does such a ruler want everyone to take the same position as his own position whenever he adopts a weak position?

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that [former Egyptian President] al-Sadat used to say: Normalize relations with Israel. However, would it not have been better for al-Sadat, in the first place, to await what would be really achieved before urging others to adopt his position? Wait, brother, and see what will happen, what results your conduct achieves, and see whether there is any Arab who has been convinced of normalizing relations. Wait, at least to see where this path will take you, and what result this conduct achieves. It is not important if others have a different opinion; what is really important is whether you actually want to burn your bridges. They used to say loudly: Normalize relations with Israel, adopt this specific position.

His excellency said: Some people just want an excuse to do what they want to do. They say that some people, whom they do not want to name, are moving very fast,

running. But why do you run? Wait for some time to pass, wait for six months or a year. Are you so impatient that a period of a few months is too long for you? Responsible people should withstand pressure for several years for the sake of their cause. A responsible man should remain steadfast even if a dagger is lodged in his flesh. He must stand this pressure for five years while carrying out his duties, and must behave normally. Only after this can he remove the dagger. Why the hurry? They look as if they are awaiting the opportunity or are feeding on a single grain of wheat, as the saying goes. [sentence as received]

His excellency said: They talk too much when they discuss Arab nationalism. They talk so much that they make us sleepy. They talk too much about history but when it comes to action, they shrink to the point of nothingness, why? They can become great. If someone wants to become great in their principles we will all support and follow him even if the Iraqis blame us. All we want is for him to raise his standards a little.

Addressing the commanders, the president said: O comrades, make mistakes but may God lead you away from mistakes. Only God is free of errors. You can make mistakes in anything but you must not make mistakes in history because anything can be corrected except history. If the ship's story materialized, would such a mistake be corrected? To correct this mistake would have required us to wage a second war with America so that we could bring them to negotiate with us on our own ship, otherwise the mistake of the first ship would not be forgotten but would remain so that each one of your children, when he goes to school with his pen and papers, would see this ship popping up between the lines.

His excellency said: If they made Sultan Hashim Ahmad lay down his gun without him making them lay down theirs too, his gun would remain on the face of all the Iraqis and the Americans would show it on every occasion in their films. The Americans have not produced any such films so far, why? Aren't they the movie makers? They have not produced any film for some time because they have nothing to show. Wherever they look they face basic problems. Would they show their guided bombs hitting a building to bring it down or a factory to destroy?

President Saddam Husayn added: Thus, they could not show a single U.S. soldier facing an Iraqi soldier. They will not show this, nor will they show how the U.S. tanks faced the Iraqi tanks. Let them show the fighting against the Republican Guard in the south or the fighting that took place against the isolated heroes who fought them at Kuwait airport. A British commander appeared on the British television. He was fair when he said: If I were the commander of these fighters, I would be proud of them.

During the meeting, his excellency reviewed the international positions, the circumstances that Iraq experienced during the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah battle and the Mother of Battles, and Iraq's rejection of dishonest

bargaining. He also reviewed Iraq's adherence to the friendship with the rulers of the former Soviet Union, who betrayed this friendship in the Mother of Battles and harmed it greatly in the al-Qadisiyah battle.

His excellency recalled Iraq's rejection of the continued U.S. attempts to acquire the Soviet T-72 tank in return for supplying us with a package of shells and cannons, which we would pay for. The aim was to dismantle and examine the Soviet tank, so they could see it from the inside and become acquainted with it.

President Saddam Husayn said: If we now go and sit with the Russians, who are the origin and base of the great [former] Soviet Union, we will not be ashamed because our positions can only raise the head of mankind high, knowing that those who are ruling Russia now are not the same as those who ruled the Soviet Union and who betrayed the friendship in the Mother of Battles.

Concluding his speech, President Saddam Husayn said: In order not to make mistakes in historical issues when we face them, we should pause and think several times. Everyone of us should be ready to offer sacrifices, and we all should cooperate in order not to commit a historic mistake.

Participating in the reception ceremony and in extending the congratulations were fighter Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, defense minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office; fighter Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, industry and minerals minister; and fighter Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs.

Officials on Arab Reconciliation, Kuwaiti POWs

NC0701120494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0838 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (MENA)—Iraqi officials have stated that Iraq has adopted a clear and frank stand on Arab reconciliation based on the need to reach a common Arab formula that would achieve better joint Arab action and guarantee inseparable and comprehensive pan-Arab security. The officials believe that such joint action should prevent any foreign aggression against any Arab country and that it should guarantee nonintervention in these countries' internal affairs, amend the Arab League charter, and set up an Arab court of justice to settle inter-Arab disputes without foreign intervention.

In statements to the MENA correspondent in Baghdad, a number of these officials expressed Iraq's interest in and support for joint Arab action in light of the great challenges facing the Arab nation. They also expressed Iraq's genuine desire to settle inter-Arab disputes because, as they put it, this "will help lift the blockade against Iraq."

Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, said his country has presented its opinions of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid's paper on Arab reconciliation. He said that, in this way, Iraq has proved its desire for interaction and allowing the opportunity for dialogue and an exchange of views to improve the situation.

The Iraqi delegate added: Many of those who talk about Arab reconciliation consider the so-called Gulf crisis to be the primary challenge the Arab nation has faced. They believe that this crisis caused the current situation, while Iraq thinks that perhaps the Gulf crisis was the result or one of the results of the bad situation that had existed before.

Ambassador Najm said Iraq believes that anyone who contemplates reconciliation must overlook past conflicts and establish a new groundwork that would enable us to bring about the desired Arab situation.

He said that his country is ready to positively and constructively discuss all issues pertaining to Arab reconciliation if there is a serious dialogue to achieve reconciliation on a new, sound basis. He noted that there are many challenges facing the Arab nation and that the reconciliation process should not ignore these challenges, particularly the cultural invasion, the growing military power of the Arab countries' neighbors, the water shortage, and Israel.

The Iraqi delegate spoke about the Kuwaiti prisoners issue—a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that many consider the primary cause of Arab nation's division. He said: Iraq does not hold prisoners, but there are cases of people who have been missing since the war. Baghdad already agreed to receive Arab League envoys on the issue and is about to receive another envoy to ensure that all the prisoners have been released.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Baghdad, Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih affirmed his country's willingness and sincere desire to work for Arab reconciliation. He added: We hope there will be a distinction between what are called the Kuwaiti prisoners and the issue of the missing people because Iraq does not have any Kuwaiti prisoners. Perhaps there are missing people.

He said that Baghdad will welcome any Arab League envoy who wants to investigate the Kuwaiti prisoners issue.

UK's Archer Addresses Kurdistan Parliament

NC0601173194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Lord Jeffrey Archer, envoy of British Prime Minister John Major, delivered a speech at a meeting held by the Kurdistan parliament yesterday. The meeting was attended by Parliamentary Speaker Jawhar Namiq Salim; Deputy Speaker Najat Ahmad 'Aziz Zadah; Kurdistan Prime Minister Kusret Rasul;

Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim, minister of humanitarian affairs and cooperation; and Khurshar Zibari, member of the Political Bureau of the Unified Kurdistan Democratic Party.

The session was opened by the parliamentary speaker, who delivered a speech in which he welcomed Mr. Archer and spoke about his role in supporting the cause of the Kurdish people. He also noted the long relationship between the Kurdish people and Mr. Archer and his important role in supporting our people. The parliamentary speaker also praised the British Government's positive role in supporting democracy and human rights in the world in general, and in Iraq in particular, and its role in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 688.

Mr. Archer then delivered a speech which he began by reading a letter that British Prime Minister John Major addressed to the parliament and the regional government in Kurdistan.

Kurdistan Islamic Movement Branch Joins KDP

JN0701120194 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1535 GMT 6 Jan 94

["Text of statement issued by the Fifth Branch of the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan on joining the Kurdistan Democratic Party" on 31 December 1993; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Recent events in the Kurdish arena, represented by the regrettable internecine fighting, have had negative effects and repercussions on the Kurdistan liberation movement. We acknowledge the domestic and foreign negative effects of these events. We appreciate the noble stands of the leader of the Kurdish people, Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], to prevent an armed clash and later to stop and contain it in order to avoid bloodshed. This stand indicates his concern for the wellbeing of his people and his devotion and sincerity. Appreciating these noble stands by the KDP and its leader, Barzani, and following the approval of the guide of the Islamic Movement, Shaykh ('Ali) al-'Uthman in accordance with his cable dated 30 December 1993, we declare that the Fifth Branch of the Islamic Movement, the (Badinan) region, will join the KDP. On this occasion, we extend our thanks and appreciation for all the good efforts that have been exerted and prevented the occurrence of problems and an armed clash in the (Badinan) area. We thank God Almighty that He enabled us to control the situation throughout the past period during which Kurdistan, with the exception of the (Badinan) region, witnessed such regrettable incidents. We thank God and the good sons of our proud Kurdish people.

[Signed] The Fifth Branch of the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan

[Dated] 31 December 1993

Turkman Leader Asks for Same Rights as Kurds

NC0701160594 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jan 94 p 2

[Text] Ankara—Shortly before two meetings that would be crucial on the question of Iraq—a tripartite meeting between Turkish, Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers and a Turco-Iraqi meeting possibly at FM [Foreign Ministry] undersecretary level—Iraqi Turkmen said any discussion on the issue should also take them into consideration.

Iraqi National Turkmen Party leader Muzafer Arslan, who held a press conference Tuesday, said an "autonomous region for the Kurds of northern Iraq" was not acceptable. "If such a right is given to Kurds, it should also be given to Turkmen," he said. Responding to press allegations that "the establishment of an internationally guaranteed Kurdish autonomous region was under consideration," Arslan signalled his opposition, saying: "We do not support any solution that is for the Kurds alone. If autonomy is to be given to Kurds, it should also be given to Turkmen. If a federation is to be established for Kurds, why not for the Turkmen? The autonomous system has been practised in Iran before—it did not work. Why should it be tried again?"

Emphasizing that his party's goal was "to ensure that the Turkmen should benefit from the same rights as the Kurds," Arslan said he would stress this once more to Turkish Foreign Ministry officials before the tripartite summit.

"All interested parties, from Turkey to Iraq's neighbors and to Western powers, including the United States, support the territorial integrity of Iraq," Arslan said.

Asked about the upcoming Turco-Iraqi meeting, which is expected to take place shortly as the "highest level meeting between the foreign ministries of the two countries," Arslan said:

"Turkey is a sovereign state and can choose to hold a meeting with any country it likes. But what is important is that the rights of the Turkmen should be discussed. The Foreign Ministry officials, with whom we are in constant touch, say they are doing just that. But we have heard no declaration to that effect."

Arslan suggested that observers, under the U.N. supervision and with the contribution of Turkey, should be placed in the Turkmen zones.

"We are subjected to the inhuman treatment of the Iraqi government," Arslan said. "Iraqi soldiers enter Turkmen homes. Eight Turkmen were recently executed in Karkuk three weeks ago."

Embargo Should Be Lifted

Arslan said the embargo should be lifted as Turkmen were the ones who most suffered as a result of it.

"It is clear that the embargo has not been particularly successful in weakening the Saddam regime," he noted. "We have continuously pushed for the lifting of the embargo, but it is not up to us. So all we say is the humanitarian needs of the people should be met."

Despite various allegations that the aid sent to northern Iraq did not benefit the Iraqi Turkmen, Arslan maintained that this was not the case.

"There is a Turkmen in the aid delivery teams. The aid is not enough, but it reaches us," he said.

Ankara has allocated 13.5 million dollars worth of humanitarian aid to northern Iraq.

Turkmen To Start TV Broadcasts With Turkish Help

NC0701161994 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 5 Jan 94 p 2

[Text] Ankara—Turkmen TV, which will be broadcast by a satellite dish given by the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT), will soon air its first programs, Iraqi National Turkmen Party (INTP) leader said.

INTP Chairman Muzafer Arslan said Tuesday the system would be established around Irbil within 15 days, followed probably by Karkuk and Kifri.

He said that various arrangements had been made with certain private TV channels in order to obtain some program packages. "We have also arranged our dish to pick up the broadcasts of the International Turkish Channel, Avrasya," Arslan said. He added that various groups were "disturbed" by the "activities of the Turkmen."

When asked who these were, Arslan said, "Our relations with the Baghdad government have not been good. Nor are we on good terms with its extension in northern Iraq. Moreover, some Kurdish groups in northern Iraq are disturbed, because we keep our distance from them."

Arslan noted that a radio station in Turkish, called Voice of the Turkmen, had become the most popular in the region.

Training for Teachers

INTP has also established two schools in northern Iraq, Karaoglan Primary School in Kifri and Dogus Primary School in Irbil.

"But we are in deep need of teachers and we have held talks with the Turkish Ministry of Education to provide schools," he said. "We are also appealing to retired teachers here who would like to help us."

Arslan said 30 to 40 teachers would come to Turkey this summer for training.

Rabin on Peace With Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

TA0601182094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605
GMT 6 Jan 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gil Litman; at the Allenby Bridge on 6 January—recorded, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin] ...I will not make prophecies about what will happen in 10 days. We should wait 10 days, and find the degree of similarity between the Syrian and our interpretation of the term full peace, which they have been using. Naturally, there will be the question of what it will demand as the price for full peace according to our interpretation.

[Litman] You were quoted by the French media as saying that Israel can sign a peace agreement with Jordan, as far as you are concerned, in three weeks. What prevents signing a peace contract soon?

[Rabin] Jordan prevents this.

[Litman] Why?

[Rabin] I do not believe that today it is ready to be the first of the three Arab countries with which we are negotiating to sign a peace agreement with us. We have no problems of security nor problems linked to essential territorial aspects with Jordan. Today, the issue of the Palestinians, the future of the territories, is being discussed with the Palestinians, the PLO, and not with Jordan. Therefore, when we speak of peace with Jordan, we are referring to the border that existed between mandatory Eretz Yisra'el and Jordan.

There is another country with which we have no territorial problems, but have a security problem—Lebanon. With it, matters are more complex. Also, its freedom of political maneuvering is more limited than that of Jordan. I am afraid that, apparently, Jordan also feels that it does not have enough freedom of political maneuvering to reach a peace accord with us.

Rabin: Palestinians' Release 'Goodwill Gesture'

TA0701081494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800
GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] This morning 101 Palestinian prisoners were released from prison installations in southern Israel. They are now on their way home. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the prisoners, most of whom were released from Qezi'ot prison, are now being driven home by bus.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin decided to release the prisoners as a goodwill gesture prior to the resumption of the Taba talks. The prisoners belong to organizations that support the political process. None of them were convicted of either murder or manslaughter.

Peres Views Upcoming Israel-PLO Meeting

LD0701112893 London ITV Television Network in
English 1900 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Interview with Shimon Peres, foreign minister, by correspondent Jon Snow; Peres in Tel Aviv and Snow in the London studio; from the "Channel Four" program—live]

[Text] [Snow] Foreign Minister, three months down the road from the Washington handshake are you running out of time with your own electorate?

[Peres] No, I don't think so. You know a government is not a hospital, we don't have to take the temperature every morning and we shall be judged by the end of the process which I am sure will be a successful one.

[Snow] Now on Monday [10 January] you meet again in Taba with the PLO. Is that a last chance encounter as far as the Gaza-Jericho deal goes?

[Peres] We have still a long list of problems that should be solved, we are doing something which is unprecedented, we are doing something that you cannot draw any lessons from another experiment. So it takes time and we encounter problems that we didn't anticipate, but I am sure we shall go down the road—it may take a month more or a month less, it doesn't matter, we shall arrive at the destination.

[Snow] Is one of the biggest problems that's arisen since September been the question of whether Yasir 'Arafat really any longer leads a significant body of Palestinians with whom you can negotiate?

[Peres] I wouldn't buy it. I think most of the Palestinians support peace, and maybe they support the PLO because they support peace, not the other way around. They need peace, we need peace, this is the naked truth which will accompany us more and more in the future.

[Snow] Are you having to pursue a twin-track approach on this—in other words are you in fact talking at some level with Hamas?

[Peres] No, I don't think so. Hamas is clearly against peace, Hamas is clearly against the PLO, Hamas is trying to kill the people who support peace and to bring an end to peace itself, so I do not see any room for compromise with Hamas.

[Snow] Then presumably speed is of the essence however complex these last negotiations that you describe are. You surely have only got very limited time before you have somehow got to ...

[Peres, interrupting] Why?

[Snow] Well, because presumably with the passage of time frustration builds, support for Hamas is likely to build and the people with whom you are talking presumably become less relevant?

[Peres] I am not sure. Well, anyway we have suggested the plan. The timing is in the hands of the Palestinians, if they want to make it fast it is OK with us, if they want to go slow it is their business. We would surely like to do it as soon as possible and as speedy as we can, but if they will try to postpone, to interrupt, to hesitate, it is their problem. We do not seek in any way to humiliate the Palestinians or to hurt their feelings, on the contrary we would like to see them in a dignified position, feeling well, feeling strong, feeling successful. Our only consideration is the security problems of Israel, but basically we would like to see this Palestinian story becoming a success story. We feel very strongly the better the neighbor feels, the better a neighbor we are having.

[Snow] Foreign Minister, you have proved yourself an optimist by ever going to Washington in the first place to shake hands ...

[Peres, interrupting] May I ask you, is it right to be an optimist or a pessimist, what can you do with pessimism?

[Snow] Let me ask you with your optimistic hat on what are the chances then that this deal will go through and that we will see a settlement say within eight weeks?

[Peres] No, eight weeks I wouldn't take, but it will go through undoubtedly. I suggest we have not the slightest reluctance or hesitation about our capacity and our determination for peace.

[Snow] But the timetable?

[Peres] I don't know, it may take weeks it may take months. I wish it would take weeks, but how can I tell how long it will take if I don't know yet what sort of problems we shall have to negotiate about. Until now I can say that we are able to overcome extremely complicated situations with ingenuity, with creativity, and since we see before our eyes a clear-cut goal, a clear-cut destination, and nobody will move us aside or derail us from the peace process. I am sure we shall arrive at the appointed station.

Increase in 'Positive' Syrian Statements Noted

TA0701072694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam recently spoke in public about the possibility of Syria recognizing Israel and normalizing relations with it within the framework of the peace negotiations. These issues, Khaddam said, are part of the negotiations, and it is too early to decide on the format of relations.

Political sources in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that this is the first time that a senior Syrian statesman has spoken about normalization. The sources noted that prior to the meeting between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad, there has been an increase in positive statements coming from Damascus with regard to the peace process.

Israel To Take Part in Amman Economic Conference

TA0601181394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has disclosed that Israel will participate in an international economic conference slated to be held in Amman in the spring. Representatives from regional states and from large U.S. and European economic organizations are to take part in this conference. He added that the conference's aim will be to mobilize capital in a bid to invest it in the region with the advent of the era of peace.

Mr. Peres said that Israel has begun preparing detailed programs relating to water desalinization and the construction of roads and harbors to be presented at the conference.

Chief of Staff Queried on IDF, Security Issues

TA0701125994 Tel Aviv BAMAHAHE in Hebrew 5 Jan 94 pp 7-11

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Lieutenant Colonel Orli Lahat, Yanky Galanti, and Yo'av Ze'evi; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [BAMAHAHE] This year, for the first time, we faced calls to refuse to obey orders, including one by a general in the reserves, on a massive scale. Do these calls hurt the activity of the army, and how is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] preparing to deal with such a phenomenon?

[Baraq] In my view, the IDF will have no problem with carrying out legal orders at any stage. The IDF does not determine policy and, as an army, has no stand on the arrangement with the Palestinians. It has a professional stand on the security issue and makes that known in the relevant forums that determine professional issues. The IDF's professional stand relates to security—how to defend ourselves against an external threat; how to defend the settlements; what security can be provided on the roads—in view of the government decision to leave the population centers and to transfer responsibility for public order and security there to the Palestinian police force. I reiterate: The IDF has no stand on the political aspect of the government's resolutions and will not have one in the future, due to the very nature of the relationship between the Army and the government. On the other hand, the IDF, as the Army of a democratic state, carries out the decisions of the elected government—any elected government. That was the situation up to now, that is the situation now, and that will be the situation in the future. The IDF carries out the security aspect of the government's decisions to the best of its abilities.

There are hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the Army and tens of thousands of officers who, as civilians, express the entire spectrum of political views held in this country. Therefore, it is legitimate and even good that as citizens, they have a view, because after all, they belong

to a democratic state. They express that view once every four years by putting what they think is the right slip in the ballot box and, by doing so, elect a government. The elected government is the one that instructs and guides the IDF.

Recruits, members of the standing army, and officers do not express political views when in uniform. They implement the army's orders, which stem from Israel's elected government (that is the basis of a democracy). Therefore, any soldier, when in uniform, must carry out all the legal orders he receives from his commander regardless of his political views. I expect any group of reservists and any commander who are right-wing supporters to carry out—without hesitation or appeal—an order to detain a group of Israeli settlers that tries to break into a closed area near the synagogue in Jericho, because they are in uniform. To the same extent, I expect any group of soldiers, regardless of whether they are drafted or in the reserves, who happen to belong to There Is a Limit or Peace Now to disperse rioting Palestinian women and children with resolve and without a second thought.

If an order is given, it must be carried out. That is the basis of a democracy, and we must all understand that. The IDF exists in order to defend, and it is ready to do anything to uphold the right of every citizen to believe what he wants and to struggle to convince the government and the public of the rightness of his path.

The citizen must do this in a way that is in total conformity with the rules of democracy. Therefore, I occasionally appeal to the Israeli residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza to try to express their political protests within the Green Line to the extent possible, in order to avoid diverting the IDF from its main mission of pursuing wanted men and safeguarding the security of the settlers themselves.

[BAMAHANE] Does [former Army chief chaplain] Rabbi Goren not understand that?

[Baraq] I have not even read what Goren said. From my viewpoint, what people say is unimportant. Anyone who disobeys a legal order in the army will find himself in jail—period—even if the order touches on an issue which he, as a civilian or as a member of the government, would have voted for or conducted differently. In my view, there is currently no danger of soldiers refusing to obey orders, and if there are isolated cases among hundreds of thousands of soldiers, they will find themselves in prison. [passage omitted]

IDF 'Forcibly' Removes Protesting Settlers

TA0601172694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] A confrontation has developed in the last few minutes between settlers, who had blocked the Qalqilyah-Nabulus road near the Tzofim settlement, and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that members of the security forces have

started forcibly removing Tzofim settlers who are sitting in the road, blocking it to protest what they term the deteriorating state of security in the area.

Our correspondent adds that several settlers have been detained, and the IDF is now proceeding with an evacuation. A traffic jam has been created by the fracas. The IDF has declared the site a closed military zone.

Settler-Army Skirmish Ends

TA0601201894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The confrontation between settlers and the security forces at the Tzofim junction on the Qalqilyah-Nabulus road ended a short while ago. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that about 10 settlers were detained and some settlers were injured in the course of the confrontation. The head of the Samaria Local Council acted to soothe the flaring tempers. Army and police troops are still in the area, which was declared a closed military zone. The settlers were protesting the deteriorating state of security.

Ariel Sharon Reveals Intelligence Theories

TA0601170294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 31 Dec 93 p 3

[Article by Ariel Sharon: "A Smoke Screen"]

[Text] Once the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee [FADC], as well as other bodies that deal with security issues, used to keep their discussions more secret. In these new times, everything is open, there are no barriers and no brakes.

Several days ago, as the citizens of Israel were anxiously listening to accounts of the Cairo encounter between the Israeli foreign minister and PLO representative Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], the media again announced, citing a "soothing" statement by the head of the FADC's intelligence branch: "A majority of the residents of the territories support 'Arafat."

Those who took pains to make this announcement in such a manner must have had good reasons to try to calm the public in view of the rising doubts, the uncertainty, the growing mistrust of the government announcements.

I do not discuss the FADC sessions as a rule, and I have even requested that others refrain from disclosing my remarks at these sessions. But a situation has arisen in which the government makes cynically selective use of the information it receives from intelligence elements, and there is therefore no alternative but to present a fuller picture. I trust the military censor to delete anything that can be really detrimental to state security.

Recently all the intelligence elements have been repeatedly reporting on 'Arafat's negotiating stands. In general,

they believe that 'Arafat has firmly adhered to his stands since the beginning of the negotiations, not budging from them one bit.

And this is what the intelligence elements are saying:

—As far as 'Arafat is concerned, the agreement should lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, with East Jerusalem as its capital, at the end of the process. Anything that serves this purpose is acceptable to him. Whatever does not, is rejected by him.

—In the matter of the border crossings control, the struggle is not over "Palestinian dignity versus Israeli security." The struggle is over external manifestations of Palestinian sovereignty versus Israeli security. Even if 'Arafat's demands on the matter of dignity are satisfied, the crisis will not be resolved without Israeli concession on the matter of external manifestations of sovereignty. (Israel has in the meantime given in on both the sovereignty and security issues.)

—'Arafat demands guarantees for future stages of the process without linking that to him meeting the government's expectations from the agreement. The process and every implemented stage thereof are irreversible. This is not an experiment after which, if it fails, the situation can be reversed.

—A prolonged dialogue resulted in an agreement between Fatah and Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), which stated: The two organizations will not fight each other either in Gaza, Jericho, or any other place. This is the authoritative stand of the Israeli intelligence services.

—Hamas will be incorporated in the Palestinian establishment that will come into being after Israeli evacuation. Negotiations are already under way for the inclusion of Hamas in the Gaza city council (proportional to their strength, which is about 40 percent of the Strip versus 50 percent Fatah and 10 percent Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine).

They will presumably be incorporated in every Palestinian self-administration branch, including the police. Hamas-initiated terrorist operations will continue even if and when its members join the Palestinian establishment. In all the contacts between the two organizations, Fatah has never demanded that Hamas discontinue its terrorist activities against Israel.

The intelligence elements believe that, during the interim period, terrorism is expected to intensify in Judea and Samaria, and in other places in Israel. Fatah

and its leader, 'Arafat, regard terrorism an important tool in the political process. Knowing the Israeli public's sensitivity to terror victims, 'Arafat hopes to extract additional concessions from Israel with the help of intensified terrorism.

There is no Fatah agreement that, after the evacuation, Israeli security forces will be allowed to carry out pre-emptive acts when Israel has information regarding preparations for terror activity. Fatah will also not allow the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to pursue the perpetrators of terrorism.

—The PLO will not revoke the Palestinian Covenant which calls for the destruction of Israel, even in the future.

—'Arafat does not intend to distance the PLO from the terror organizations which have always opposed the agreement ("the rejectionist front"), and which call for the intensification of activity against Israel. Furthermore, he does not sanction them.

—After the IDF evacuation, it will be impossible to identify or supervise those who carry guns. The Palestinian forces will be armed with assault rifles, machine guns, and armored vehicles.

—Even if Israel learns, in advance, of an intention to shell Sederot from the Gaza area, or Kfar Sava from Qalqilyah, the only option at our disposal will be an appeal for the PLO interference.

Fatah continues perpetrating terror acts, such as the recent incidents: the murder last weekend of the immigrant Anatoliy Kalasnikov, may the Lord revenge his blood. The stabbing of Yuval Golan in Adorayim two days ago, perpetrated by a Fatah man who was released from jail, upon a Fatah request, 10 days earlier. He probably was a new recruit with the Palestinian police, as was one of the murderers of Hayim Mizrahi from Bet El...

All of this has been reported to the members of the FADC, but not published. This was no accident, because they are putting out a smoke screen.

Possibly, some Jews want to be cheated. Our history has witnessed terrible times when the leaders of the ghettos and many of the Jews there acted this way (I find it hard to judge this because I was not there), and the results are known.

Nevertheless, it is important that we know the truth which is often being hidden from us. It is essential that we know that there is nothing left of the government's grounding assumption before the agreement is implemented. Let no one later say: "We had no idea." Everything is in front of us.

UK Foreign Secretary Concludes Two-Day Visit

Hurd Holds News Conference

JN0601180494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has asserted that comprehensive peace in the Middle East will not be achieved without Jordan. This is because Jordan plays an important and vital role in the peace process.

The remarks were made in a news conference Hurd held in Amman this afternoon at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and the prime minister. Hurd also had talks on developments in the peace process and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation.

More details in the following report:

Hurd said his talks in Amman were positive and that Jordan and Britain look forward to making the peace process succeed, despite the existence of some difficulties, which should be overcome. He asserted that the peace process has passed the point of no return and it is impossible to go back.

Hurd expressed his full understanding of, and deep respect for, His Majesty King Husayn's view that all matters should be settled before any agreement with Israel is signed. He said: I fully understand the reasons that prompted his majesty to adopt this policy. He further said that much has been achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track, noting that there are other things which should be done.

Hurd stressed his country's economic support for Jordan, saying: We have an economic aid program for Jordan and we will implement this program to support Jordan's needs. He pointed to his meeting today with the water minister and to Britain's role in extending aid to carry out a water project in southern Jordan. He also underlined the need to ease the burdens of Jordan's indebtedness and support its economy in facing many burdens as a result of the continued economic embargo against Iraq. He said he discussed with Jordanian officials ways to overcome difficulties to increase the volume of trade between Jordan and Britain. He added that he had discussed with Jordanian officials the negative impact of the economic embargo against Iraq, noting that Jordan feels that it bears a great burden as a result of this embargo, more than other neighboring countries of Iraq.

Hurd underscored his statements in the Gaza Strip yesterday before arriving in Amman in which he asserted his government's support for the Palestinian people through extending technical expertise directly or through the Economic Community and the United Nations, especially for the Palestinian self-rule region. He said: We cannot do more than this because the United States and Russia are directly responsible for the peace process.

He asserted that the concerned parties in the region are determined to achieve peace and that the will for success is greater than failure, since failure means the return of tension to the region.

Hurd expressed his belief that Israel has no ambitions in Lebanon, pointing out that it seeks to protect its security and that it has no desire to annex Lebanese territory. He reaffirmed the need for Israel's implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. He said that reaching a solution on the Lebanese-Israeli track can happen at the same time as other solutions on other tracks are being reached within a comprehensive solution.

He also expressed his belief that Arab-Israeli disputes are over. We are now in a stage of direct contacts and negotiations, which is the only course to achieve positive results and practical decisions and implement them.

He denied he was mediating between the Arabs and the Israelis, saying his tour of the region is aimed at listening to the views of the parties concerned, conveying views from one side to another, and helping clarify these ideas.

Hurd and his wife left Amman this afternoon for Malta on the fourth leg of his Middle East tour. He was seen off at the airport by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Nayif al-Hadid, the Foreign Ministry secretary general; senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the British ambassador in Amman.

British Press Team Briefed

JN0601192194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the information minister and minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, met at his office in the Information Ministry today with a British press team accompanying the British foreign secretary on his visit to Jordan.

Details in the following report: Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the information minister and minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs, briefed the delegation on the developments in the peace process since the announcement of the Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel and the impact of this agreement on Jordan as a result of its relations with the occupied Arab territories.

He said that developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track clearly affect the course of Jordanian negotiations and Jordan's basic interests. He said: We are now coordinating with the Palestinian brothers in order to unify stands and avoid any contradictions or negative aspects between the two sides in the future.

He said that Jordan believes that peace should be just and comprehensive and that all parties should get their rights with all due respect and appreciation, especially Jordanian and Palestinian interests.

Following the meeting, BBC television held an interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani.

[Begin al-'Anani recording, in English] You know Jordan was the only country which opened its borders with the Palestinians and kept them open since the war of 1967. And, therefore, you know, there have been cumulative rights over time, there have been entangled business relations and so on. We don't want to sound like we are engaging in a tug of war, you know, who should win the West Bank. But it is not a question either of a zero option. But we believe that the fact that the Israelis have complete dominance over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, by virtue of occupation, if we can use the word virtue, but at the same time Jordan seems to be on the paying end of the equation. [sentence as heard] This development should really be reversed because Jordan has put a great deal of sacrifice. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Paper Praises Hurd Remarks

JN0701121694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 94 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Positive View of Jordanian Role"]

[Text] After a tour of a number of Middle Eastern countries and at the conclusion of talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking officials, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said that Jordan plays a basic role in this part of the world and that a just and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without an effective Jordanian role.

The British foreign secretary did well when he recognized, at close hand, not only the importance of Jordan's role but the extent of economic difficulties which Jordan finds itself facing from time to time—economic difficulties caused by this role Jordan is playing and as a result of its moderate and realistic policies.

There is no doubt that such an appreciation of Jordan's role is good and a source of pride for all of us. However, this prompts us to say that this role should be maintained and supported by all possible means, foremost of which is helping Jordan overcome its economic difficulties that, in fact, were a result of continuous political developments. The most recent of these developments is the forced immigration of thousands of citizens during the Gulf crisis.

It was important for the British foreign secretary to also notice that despite what has been accomplished on the Jordanian-Israeli track, it is not yet time to sign any agreement with Israel. This is because more efforts should be made before signing any agreement in order to achieve balanced progress on all the other negotiating tracks until Jordan's goal of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region is realized.

Jordan is delighted by this British appreciation of its role. It also hopes that all this appreciation will be accompanied by economic support. Such economic support includes writing off Jordan's debts, alleviating its problems resulting from the implementation of UN

sanctions on Iraq, and developing some programs and various projects, including water projects. This is especially since Jordan is aware of the seriousness of the dangers which could threaten its agricultural and industrial projects if the water issue is not tackled.

Coordination Talks With PLO Continue in Amman

'Frustration' Reportedly Prevails

JN0601130594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] At a time when the Jordanian-Palestinian talks are being held in Amman for the second consecutive day to launch a serious dialogue between the two sides, an atmosphere of frustration has prevailed these talks, and it seems they will not produce any positive results. King Husayn had earlier stressed that these talks will be the last opportunity to rectify the situation following the PLO's continuous procrastination.

Observers believe that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's decision to send Faruq Qaddumi to Amman, taking into consideration that the latter is not informed of the coordination file, unlike Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, reflects 'Arafat's desire to procrastinate and gain time, especially since the Palestinian delegation is expected to ask for time to hold consultations with the leadership in Tunis, something which will lead to revolving in the same vicious circle.

An authorized Jordanian source has stressed that Jordan has the feeling that 'Arafat gives priority to coordination with Israel at the expense of coordination with Jordan. The source noted that Amman does not want to get involved in the whirlpool of turning the conflict from a Palestinian-Israeli conflict into a Palestinian-Jordanian conflict. However, the source added, Amman holds the PLO responsible for the repercussions of the failure of the dialogue in Amman, and the additional suffering this would cause to the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories.

Talks Feared 'Doomed To Failure'

NC0601123094 Paris AFP in English 1212 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Amman, Jan 6 (AFP)—Jordan fears PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has ignored its ultimatum to improve cooperation on Palestinian autonomy and that fence-mending talks here are doomed to failure, Jordanian sources said Thursday [6 January].

"No accord will be reached between the two sides and the Palestinian delegation will ask to leave for Tunis for consultation with the PLO leadership," a source close to the negotiations told AFP.

King Husayn had described the talks here as a "last chance" to mend ties between the two sides.

A Jordanian official told AFP that Jordan feared that 'Arafat "is giving priority to Palestinian-Israeli cooperation rather than to that with Jordan" and would blame the PLO leader if the talks here failed.

The source close to the talks said that 'Arafat's choosing Faruq Qaddumi instead of Mahmud 'Abbas to head the negotiations here "shows his determination to gain time without making firm commitments."

Unlike Qaddumi who disagreed with the Israeli-PLO peace deal, 'Abbas signed the accord in Washington and is directly involved in all autonomy-related negotiations.

The two days of talks focused on how to boost coordination on banking in the territories, the issues of Jerusalem, water, and refugees as well as on the PLO-Israeli negotiations, Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said.

The talks "will continue until both sides reach decisive results," al-'Anani said earlier.

King Husayn on Saturday gave the Palestine Liberation Organization until Tuesday to begin a "serious" dialogue on improving coordination, after the PLO had failed to sign an economics agreement that has been ready for two months.

The agreement is aimed at setting up Jordanian banks in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

'Declaration' Expected at End of Talks

JN0601200794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators are trying to come up with a joint formula after it has been confirmed that the PLO will not sign the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement.

A declaration is expected to be issued at the conclusion of the talks in Amman tonight on the establishment of a joint cooperation committee to implement the financial, monetary, and banking policies until the central Palestinian monetary body has been established.

This declaration is an alternative to the PLO's refusal to sign a joint economic agreement, which has been awaiting its approval for over two months. This declaration gives Jordan the green light to reopen branches of its banks in the West Bank. However, the kingdom is more eager to reach a comprehensive economic agreement without isolating the issue of the banks, as an authoritative Jordanian source said.

The joint declaration will include broad outlines on the use of the Jordanian dinar in the occupied territory and the establishment of banks specialized in development in the fields of housing, industry, and agriculture, and will encourage investments without discussing details as was the case in the joint economic agreement.

The Palestinian side has also committed itself to participation in the six joint committees as soon as possible.

Talks Resume 7 Jan

JN0701130294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian talks resumed at the Foreign Ministry today. The Jordanian side is headed by Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, while the Palestinian side is headed by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

These talks are scheduled to end today with the issuance of a joint statement dealing with the issues discussed.

Cooperation Agreement Reached

JN0701125694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A short while ago, the Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators reached a joint agreement which includes the formation of a technical committee for cooperation to implement the financial, monetary, and banking policies until the Palestinian central monetary authority is established. This gives Jordan the green light to reopen the branches of its banks in the occupied territories under joint supervision of the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestinian Economic Council. The two sides have also agreed to use the Jordanian dinar as the main currency, along with other Arab and international currencies, and to establish banks for development in the fields of housing, industry, agriculture, and investment. The two sides committed themselves to holding meetings, as soon as possible, of the six joint committees, which have been frozen for some time.

This agreement was reached following three days of continuous meetings, during which journalists heard arguments and discussion. The Jordanians insisted on obtaining a serious PLO commitment to coordinating stands in all fields, particularly the economic field.

The results of these meetings have come as a compromise solution in light of the PLO's refusal to sign a joint economic agreement, which has been ready for more than two months. The two sides have simply committed themselves to the broadlines of future policies, leaving to the joint committees the task of drafting the details of agreements in the near future.

Importance of Meetings Stressed

JN0601125294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 94 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-Palestinian Meetings"]

[Text] Based on a number of joint principles and amid a climate highlighted by common objectives, the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings began yesterday in order to formulate policies and define mechanisms that would

achieve the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples. Those two fraternal peoples are united by hopes and pains as well as the unity of blood, geography, and joint history.

There is no doubt that these meetings, which were permeated by a true fraternal spirit, are of special importance. Great hopes are pinned on these meetings that are accompanied by serious challenges. All this should lead to practical results that respond to the requirements of this decisive stage and support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their national soil in the occupied territories.

These bilateral talks acquire further importance because they, in themselves, represent the first link in a series of links to achieve required Arab coordination. This is especially since it has become clear that Arab coordination is useless without previous coordination between the Jordanians and Palestinians on whom and on whose course at this level everything aspired in terms of broader Arab coordination depends.

While defining mechanisms that can translate principles into practical steps, the Jordanians and Palestinians are not forgetting that they are holding talks at a very critical stage; that is, when the initial requirements of the peace process have to be met. This gives these talks a responsibility that cannot but be shouldered, especially since any expected result from these talks will strengthen the Palestinian stand and improve the PLO's negotiating stand.

As we wager on these talks and aspire for results that serve both Jordan and Palestine, we are confident that the deep sense of serious responsibility and high awareness of the dangers of this stage and its possible consequences will push these talks toward achieving the desired success and whatever else that can reinforce the two peoples' cohesion and strengthen the deep-rooted relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Information Minister on Relations With PLO

JN0601150594 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 5 Jan 94
pp 16-19

[Interview with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani by Samir Hijawi in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hijawi] His majesty the king has dropped the idea of confederation for good. What kind of relationship will Jordan have with the self-rule authority, especially since control of the bridges will most likely be in the hands of the Israelis?

[Al-'Anani] Not having a decisive stance on the question of confederation has given room for many wrong interpretations, especially in the West. Those who have an interest in marring the relationship between Jordan and the PLO always take any Jordanian decision or stand to mean that Jordan plans to go back on the decision of disengagement [of ties to the West Bank]. His majesty the king wanted to make this point very clear. We have

an interest in Jerusalem: We want Jerusalem to be Arab and Islamic and we want the holy places to be safeguarded.

Jordan did not create this situation. It is the nature of the Declaration of Principles that created this situation, because the Declaration of Principles has deferred the question of Jerusalem until the final phase after five years. We know that when Jordan relinquished the geographic jurisdiction in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, it wanted the Palestinians to take over. But if we are going to have a vacuum for five years regarding the question of Jerusalem, then this means that the holy places, under Israeli measures and court rulings, will be subject to control by Israel, as there is no one to claim these places on behalf of the Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, his majesty explained that this position has to do with Islamic Arab interests in Jerusalem, and is not meant to circumvent the disengagement decision.

[Hijawi] So there is no going back on the decision of disengagement?

[Al-'Anani] There is no going back on the disengagement decision. There are various views being aired, which we cannot control in a country that has freedom of expression. It is better to have a constant relationship between Jordan and Palestine. We do not want this to be a good framework for bad intentions. We do not want something that looks good but induces suffering from within. Therefore we have to show concern. Showing political concern is not done through goodwill alone, but by being extremely careful, intelligent, and using one's mind. When we speak about the issue of Jerusalem, we do not want the PLO to take this as a Jordanian attempt to circumvent the disengagement decision.

If there are fears that there will be a confederation in the future, we say no. This, however, does not mean that there can be no confederation at the choice of the two peoples in the future, as part of Arab unity or as part of relations between the two countries. This question will be discussed at the appropriate time by a decision from the people's base. We should remember that there have been more than 500 attempts at unity, cooperation, coordination, and integration since World War II. Most, or all, of them have failed, because they stemmed from political decisions and not from decisions at the grass roots. Therefore, his majesty wants to say that this question is unthinkable now, and that it will not be discussed now because it is not one of Jordan's priorities. The first priority is the restoration of the territory and achieving the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination on their national soil. I think his majesty was very clear in this regard.

[Hijawi] Why do you think the Palestinian side is dragging its feet over the signing of the economic agreement with Jordan?

[Al-'Anani] I do not think they are dragging their feet. It is a question of the PLO wanting first to wrap up an agreement on Israeli withdrawal and the Gaza-Jericho

accord before moving to deal with Jordan. On that score, Jordan, however, does not necessarily see eye to eye with the PLO. Jordan sees a greater need for Arab coordination, which, it argues must be given precedence over negotiations with the Israelis. Arabs, Jordan's argument runs, must coordinate their policies toward Israel. From our standpoint, we do not think an Arab party should give preference to coordination with Israel over that with fellow Arabs. We have informed our brothers that their negotiations with Israel are bound to affect us directly. Hence the need for them to coordinate with us. As an important player in this equation and at this crucial state, there can be no disregarding our interests. We are pressing for coordination in the best interests of our two countries. We are speaking from experience. We should not lose sight of the importance that must be attached to the right order of priorities. Let us first coordinate among ourselves as Arabs and then approach Israel with a united negotiating strategy.

[Hijawi] There is a memorandum of understanding and nine protocols between the Jordanians and Israelis.

[Al-'Anani] No, there are no protocols in existence. There is an agenda made up of items addressing particular topics. There are no protocols or annexes or agreements. Other than the items on the joint agenda, there is nothing.

[Hijawi] In light of the recent events, will the opening of Jordanian bank branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip be frozen?

[Al-'Anani] A decision will be made at the appropriate time, and I do not want to judge things prematurely. We presume that the banks should be reopened in the West Bank, and that this plan should pass through legal channels, so Jordan will endorse it. We are eager to do so.

[Hijawi] Have you been acquainted with what is agreed on in the Paris economic meetings between the Palestinian and Israeli sides?

[Al-'Anani] We are little acquainted with these meetings. Thus, we stress the need for coordination. A call for coordination should stem from the need for consultation and acquainting others with what is happening. This is so because what is taking place in Paris will have a profound effect on us.

[Hijawi] How will you deal with the results of the Paris negotiations?

[Al-'Anani] We do not know what these results will be, so I cannot tell how we will deal with them. However, we can deal with such results through coordination. For this reason, we call for coordination.

[Hijawi] Why does the Palestinian side refrain from coordinating with the Jordanian side?

[Al-'Anani] It is not a matter of refraining but of interpretations concerning the priorities.

[Hijawi] To what extent will the Central Bank of Jordan control the Jordanian currency that will remain in circulation in the self-rule areas?

[Al-'Anani] We should recall that the Jordanian dinar is currently available in the West Bank thanks to the open-bridges policies and also because our kinsfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip prefer to deal with the Jordanian dinar than with other currencies, particularly the Israeli shekel. Thus, the existence of bank channels will make Jordan more capable of organizing the currency affairs by organizing and supervising the work of such banks.

[Hijawi] What are the possible threats to the Jordanian dinar?

[Al-'Anani] The Jordanian currency is at risk due to Israeli measures whether banks are there or not. We learned that immediately after the [1967] occupation, Israel sold Jordanian dinars in the market, and Jordan had to purchase these dinars in hard currency. Moreover, Israel tried to counterfeit the Jordanian currency, but we changed that currency. However, preserving the Jordanian dinar in the territories should be done through an institutional coordination with clear features. This can probably be accomplished through the Jordanian banks.

[Hijawi] Your Excellency the Minister: What points were discussed during 'Arafat's recent visit to Jordan?

[Al-'Anani] Cordial and frank talks were held between His Majesty King Husayn and President 'Arafat. Coordination and joint action was emphasized. Also stressed was the fact that coordination, which we used to talk about, should be crystallized within a clear and consistent framework. It was also emphasized that all issues should be clearly and frankly discussed in an atmosphere of complete trust. I believe that these were the pivotal points of discussions.

[Hijawi] But his majesty's recent speech clearly indicates that the meeting was not fruitful?

[Al-'Anani] I do not think that it reads that way. As I said at the beginning, his majesty's speech was devoted to highlighting the importance of coordination between the two sides, that there is no time left for any delay in this coordination.

[Hijawi] It seems that, on the other side, there is flirtation going on between the government and the ten Palestinian factions [based in Damascus]. Perhaps this is indicated by George Habash's recent statements that viewpoints are now closer. Do you consider that this is a Jordanian gesture to the other side of the PLO that Jordan can play the Palestinian opposition card?

[Al-'Anani] Jordan never plays cards in the Palestinian problem. Jordan wants the PLO to be strong, capable of assuming its serious responsibilities under the shadow of negotiations and in view of the difficult tasks inherent in its decisions. We want all the Palestinian factions to be united.

We want their differences to be confined to them, without affecting the Palestinian unity of ranks or reducing their ability to negotiate in the best way possible.

Our door in Jordan is open to whoever wants to come to us. We would welcome him even if his opinion is different from ours. I do not think we will be intolerant. However, the basic problem is that whenever a decision is made, we are confronted by allegations that we want this or that, or are playing that. It is well-known that Jordan does not play political or nonpolitical cards. Jordan behaves reasonably and objectively within its principles. It believes in the need to reach a just and comprehensive and just peace that will first and foremost serve the Palestinian interests and solve the Palestinian problem because without such a solution to this problem, which is the crux of the Arab-Israeli dispute, there will be no peaceful solution. As for Dr. Habash's visit, the man has visited Jordan several times in the past. To give the visit special interpretations at this time is simply trying to be too clever in analyzing.

[Hijawi] Some say that if Syria signs an agreement with the Israeli side, the Palestinian factions would find a political center for themselves in Jordan. What do you say to that?

[Al-'Anani] These are mere speculations and interpretations that serve only non-Arab interests. Jordan is very clear. It wants the PLO to be capable of confronting the

challenges. Jordan does not use cards. I have no answer to your question except the one I gave to your previous question. [passage omitted]

Memo Urges Freeing Political Prisoners in Syria

JN0601104294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p 30

[Text] A group of Jordanian figures has sent a memorandum to House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri and members of the House. The memorandum values the House's efforts to spread freedom and democracy in order to fulfill the requirements of the pan-Arab project.

The memorandum refers to the continued detention by the Syrian authorities of a number of Jordanian political prisoners, including pan-Arab struggler Dafi al-Jam'ani, who has been imprisoned for 23 years without trial, and without any charges being brought against him, and who is considered to be the world's longest-held political prisoner.

The memorandum says that al-Jam'ani is suffering from ill health, and appeals to the House of Representatives to take the initiative to urge the Syrian president to immediately release al-Jam'ani and other political prisoners so that they can return to their families after almost three decades of imprisonment.

Al-Hirawi Addresses Foreign Diplomatic Corps

NC0601160194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1153 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Speech by President Ryan al-Hirawi at a traditional annual reception for the members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic corps held at Ra'bda Palace in Beirut on 6 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency, dean of the diplomatic corps: On behalf of all Lebanese people we thank you for the noble sentiments you expressed on your behalf and on behalf of the diplomatic corps for Lebanon and me. We thank you for the appreciation you expressed for the achievements of this country, which is striving to regain its health and sovereignty. This country will always remember your support for progress in the march to liberation, reconstruction, and peace. [passage omitted]

You are witnessing this country's determination to rebuild itself, despite the inherited burdens and the stormy political changes taking place around us and in the world. Convey to your countries and peoples that Lebanon has overcome the inherited ordeal, and is moving toward the future with self-confidence and faith in its rights.

The most significant achievements of the peace process were the triumph of the will of the Lebanese people in the struggle for coexistence, the development of a plan for salvation, and the return to a normal life. You have witnessed the unity of the comprehensive and firm national position in the face of the shocks to which we were subjected this year, beginning with our collective rejection of the Palestinian deportees, our unity in one rank in repelling the Israeli aggression against the south and western al-Biqaa' last July, and ending with [words indistinct] recommendation issued by the UN General Assembly last month regarding UN Security Council Resolution 425. These shocks, which came [words indistinct] were dwarfed by the will of the Lebanese. They confirmed that Lebanon has become stronger than all the storms, and that it deserves the backing of your countries to regain its rights. [passage indistinct]

We have participated in the Madrid Conference within the framework of the implementation of Resolution 425 to achieve just and comprehensive peace, and not any partial or unjust peace. The assurances contained in all the letters we received from the U.S. Administration since 1991 leave no doubt that efforts will be made to implement this resolution.

We participated out of solidarity with our Arab brothers in the Madrid Conference, which also involved the implementation of the other UN resolutions, particularly resolutions 242 and 338. We are interested in the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. Whoever talks about a comprehensive and just peace means peace in the whole area, and not a separate peace, but how meaningful peace would be if it is achieved with Lebanon and Syria.

We extend our thanks to the UN forces—commanders, officers, and soldiers—and to their countries. The sacrifices they are making to safeguard Lebanese legitimacy in the south in implementation of the provisions of Resolution 425 deserve our thanks and gratitude.

Your Excellencies, the most precious treasure which the Lebanese possess is the will to constantly move forward. We have three priorities today: Reinforcing national reconciliation, launching socioeconomic reconstruction, and strengthening Lebanon's position in the area and the world. What we have accomplished in a short period confirms that Lebanon is a living country. We have moved from an economic crisis, social division, and political and military conflict to the people rallying around the state and the success of the state and personal initiative in checking economic deterioration. A big improvement has been achieved in the balance of payments this year. We were also able to absorb the deficit in the balance of trade, and saw an increase in bank deposits and an increase in the development rate to about seven percent.

Despite the burdens, Lebanon has not defaulted on payment of its foreign debts. In this regard, we extend our thanks to the World Bank, to the countries that granted us long-term loans, and to the Arab funds which provided assistance to projects in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Your excellencies, less than two months ago our country celebrated the 30th anniversary of its national independence, looking to the year 1994 with much hope for positive accomplishments. During this year we will complete the building of the state, launch the workshop of reconstruction in Beirut and the regions; and we anticipate decisive progress in the efforts for comprehensive and just peace. What reinforces our confidence is the positive international response to our efforts, led by the decision of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to visit Lebanon in response to invitations by all Lebanese officials as a confirmation of the unity of our country and reconciliation of its people.

Your excellencies, a country that offers coexistence as a model to the world and carries the banner of democracy, freedom, development, and reconstruction is a country that deserves peace. Long live peace, long live Lebanon.

Defense Minister Warns of Israeli Operations

NC0601140994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Beirut, 6 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Mahdin Duhai has cautioned against the possible escalation of military operations by the Israeli occupation forces on the Lebanese front before the Syrian-U.S. summit meetings between Presidents Hafez al-Assad and Bill Clinton in Geneva in mid-January and before preparations for the resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington.

In statements made to MENA, the Lebanese defense minister said that the Lebanese Army has taken all the necessary measures to confront such Israeli attacks, which are expected at any time.

In his statements, Dallul said that Israel always tends to exacerbate the situation in south Lebanon before every round of talks. Israel will try this time to steal the limelight from the U.S.-Syrian meeting, which is important in determining the future of the comprehensive and just peace in the region, Muhsin Dallul added.

Dallul's statements come in response to remarks made by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of the Israeli Government's activities in south Lebanon. Lubrani expects the Lebanese resistance to increase its operations during the next few days. According to security reports from the south and western al-Biq'a, the Islamic resistance forces have been placed on a state of maximum alert as a precaution against any Israeli attacks on its positions in the Lebanese towns and villages adjacent to the occupied border strip.

In his statements to MENA, the Lebanese defense minister said that Lebanon believes that the Arab defense ministers should meet as soon as possible to reassess the military situation in light of recent developments. Dallul said that Lebanon will welcome an invitation by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid to convene this meeting.

UN Protests Israel's Firing at Peacekeepers

NC0701112294 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Jan 7 (AFP)—Israeli-backed militiamen opened fire at two tanks manned by Finnish

peacekeepers in south Lebanon without causing casualties, a UN officer here said Friday [7 January].

He told AFP that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) protested to Israel over Thursday's incident, which he said involved militiamen of the Israeli-trained and financed South Lebanese Army (SLA).

The tanks were crossing the al-Hamra' bridge, in the western sector of Israel's "security zone," on their way to UNIFIL in al-Naqurah, south of Tyre, when gunshots were fired in their direction, the officer said.

Israel told UNIFIL that the SLA forces were aiming at three unidentified commandos in the region, he said.

A Lebanese police spokesman reported that anti-Israeli forces late Thursday fired four rocket-propelled grenades at an SLA position on the bridge, prompting an immediate retaliation. There were no casualties.

Last month Israel suspended an Israeli tank commander who mistakenly opened fire in south Lebanon, killing a Norwegian UN officer and wounding another.

Norway and the United Nations lodged official protests with Israel over the incident.

Israeli Planes Stage 'Mock Raids' Over South

NC0701120594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] Israeli military aircraft flew over Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah this morning, staging mock raids. At 1100 today Israeli artillery positioned in 'Alman shelled the al-Litani River course and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah.

Foreign Minister Meets With Jordanian Speaker

JN0601143794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, at noon today. Shakir Is'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, attended the meeting.

Discussions dealt with bilateral parliamentary relations and the exchange of visits and delegations between the two assemblies in the two fraternal countries. Discussions also dealt with issues pertaining to the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], its activities, ways of activating its role, and the next APU session. They also discussed the agenda of the next Inter-parliamentary Union's conference and coordination at this conference among Arab parliaments.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Tahir al-Masri this morning. During the meeting, discussions dealt with developments in the peace process, Arab coordination, and the importance of the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton in achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

The speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives arrived in Damascus via the Dar'a border post this morning. He was welcomed at the Dar'a border post by Dar'a Governor Dr. Walid 'Uthman; Shakir Is'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly; and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Tahir al-Masri made a statement to a SANA correspondent in Dar'a in which he said that he is happy to visit sisterly Syria and meet with Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah and the assembly members. He added that this visit opens the way for the exchange of visits between the two assemblies in the two sisterly countries. He said that discussions during the visit will deal with some bilateral issues pertaining to the work of the two assemblies, general issues pertaining to the APU, and bilateral issues. Al-Masri said the visit is particularly important because it emphasizes interaction and communication between Jordan and Syria and between the two parliaments in the two sisterly countries. He also noted that he is looking forward to fruitful and useful meetings in Syria.

Vice President Receives al-Masri

JN0601193694 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1300 today Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly. During the meeting, discussions dealt with the peace process and bilateral relations.

Commentary Assails Israeli 'Provocation'

JN0501163994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] While the world is looking with hope and confidence to the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva mid-January, Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer has inaugurated a new quarter in the Qatzrin settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan. He also distributed 500 housing units to extremist Jews who publicly insist they will stay on this Syrian territory and not give it back to its owners, even in return for peace.

The Israeli minister has pledged to develop and expand Zionist settlements on the Golan. Naturally, Ben-Eli'ezer was assigned by the Rabin government to carry out this blatant, provocative action, which is part of new-old scheme to undermine the peace process, sabotage the U.S. initiative, circumvent in advance the results of the Clinton-al-Asad summit, and put the United States and the world face to face with a fait accompli.

Everybody knows that Israel has tried, since the signing of the Oslo agreement, to mislead the world and the United States by claiming that peace has been established in the region, that the Palestine question has been resolved, and that peace efforts on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks can be put on hold.

Furthermore, Israel has feverishly sought to marginalize Syria's role, exclude Security Council resolutions, and replace the objective of a just and comprehensive peace with separate deals, such as the Gaza-Jericho agreement. However, all these misleading attempts did not last long. The Americans, and the world, have discovered that the Oslo agreement will not lead to peace and that it has created new obstacles to a comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

It was not merely a courtesy that Secretary Christopher praised Syria's key role in the peace process and arranged for a summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. Since the announcement of the summit, the Israelis have cast doubt on the point behind it and leaked misleading information about an alleged Syrian role in this or that incident. Their maneuvers, however, did not find any response. So they decided to move from casting doubts to provocation. Thus, they encouraged Zionist settlers to settle on the Golan and pledged to provide all possible assistance to expand the existing settlements. This was done in the hope of perplexing the Clinton administration and planting mines to obstruct serious U.S. efforts to advance the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The Israelis and the entire world know perfectly well that peace in the Middle East is impossible without Syria's effective participation. They also know that peace with Syria depends on returning all of the occupied Golan and evacuating the settlers. The Israelis and the world further

know that when Syria says no, it means what it says. Syria will not relinquish any territory or rights; nor will it bargain over any inch of territory or any rights. If Israel does not want peace and is seeking separate deals that bolster occupation and usurpation, then the international community knows there can be no peace in the Middle East until it rests on the principles of justice and right and UN resolutions. Certainly there can be no peace without Syria's effective participation.

Inasmuch as Syria believes in and works for a just and comprehensive peace, it adheres to its occupied territory and those of the Arabs and resists blackmail and relinquishment.

The Golan is Syrian and shall remain so, whatever settlements Israel builds on it. Syria will not relinquish an iota of the Golan. Certainly, there will be no peace in the region or with Syria without the full return of the Golan to its kinsfolk and sons.

Such familiar provocative Israeli policies can only undermine the chances for peace. This requires that the international community have a firm stance. Peace is the cause of all nations, and it can no longer remain silent on Israel's deliberate sabotage of U.S. and international peace efforts.

Efforts to 'Scuttle' Peace Process Seen

JN0601121894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "There Can Be No Peace Unless All Golan Territory is Restored," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the constant Israeli provocations and attempts to scuttle the peace process and forestall the expected positive outcome of the al-Asad-Clinton summit.

TISHRIN says: It is clear that all Israeli provocations are part of a carefully-studied plan to cast doubts on the usefulness of the Syrian-U.S. summit, which the entire world views as important and extremely vital for activating the peace process and ending the current stalemate. Regional developments have shown the falsehood of Israeli arguments that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations are unimportant. These arguments have proven to be baseless. This is because events have shown that Syria's role is crucial, and that it is impossible to achieve peace in the Middle East without Syria's involvement or participation. It was no coincidence that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced in occupied Jerusalem in the aftermath of talks he held with Rabin and Peres during his recent tour of the region that the United States is interested in achieving a comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East, and that Syria demonstrated genuine and serious cooperation with the efforts to achieve peace. What nurtured the Americans' convictions regarding the need to achieve comprehensive and just peace were the deadlock reached

by the Gaza-Jericho accord, as well as the deterioration of the overall situation in all occupied territories.

TISHRIN affirms that Israel is preparing for war, rather than peace. It is not unlikely that Israel will mobilize the Zionist lobby in the United States and the West to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. Administration to make it back down on the objective of achieving just and comprehensive peace. Likewise, it is not unlikely that Israel will exacerbate the situation in southern Lebanon and the region. For Israel believes that peace must result in the endorsement of its expansionist plans and settlement ambitions. It is looking forward to swallowing up the Golan, Jerusalem, and most occupied territories, the paper argues.

The paper believes that the impudence of Zionist settlers has reached the limit when they said that President Clinton does not have the right to discuss the issue of the occupied Golan. This is a serious development, particularly since the Golan issue has, since 1967, continued to be debated by the world community, not to mention that this community has passed several resolutions on it, all of which called for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

The paper believes that Israel and Jewish settlers are robbing the world community of its prerogatives and responsibilities. By so doing, the settlers are posing a serious threat to the entire world community.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Golan is Syrian territory, and will remain so. No single Zionist settler will experience comfort or peace as long as the Golan is occupied. Moreover, regional peace is contingent, first and foremost, upon a complete Israeli withdrawal. Indeed, there can be no peace unless this withdrawal takes place.

Under the headline "The Credible Syrian Positions," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the same issue, saying: The regional developments that have been unfolding since the signing of the Oslo agreement have proven beyond any shadow of doubt that any unfair agreement is doomed to failure. Moreover, any agreement that is not comprehensive is unviable. For, as the regional conflict is an indivisible whole, and as the occupation of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories is an indivisible whole, the solution itself is an indivisible whole. The conclusion of separate deals, as well as claims that there is a need to delay progress on some tracks to allow for digesting an agreement on a single track are useless. Syria has warned against the consequences of accepting separate deals, regardless of the television stunts and the high-falutin words and terms used to promote them. Israel's policy is to promote separate deals to foment inter-Arab divisions, hold on to the occupied territories, or, at least, part of them, blackmail Arab sides one at a time, and undermine the foundations of just and comprehensive peace, which is not in the interest of Israel's aggressive plans.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Undoubtedly, the Syrian position is the mainstay of the

full-blown Arab position in terms of preparation and coordination. This position is necessary for proceeding with the peace process to achieve a comprehensive and just solution, which is firmly advocated by Syria. Syria will not allow Israel to torpedo the components of just and comprehensive peace, particularly since the entire world in general, and the United States in particular are well aware that the achievement of peace is contingent upon a complete Israeli withdrawal. Likewise, they are well aware that Syria cannot bargain over this principle.

Under the headline "Various Means To Achieve The Same End," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Israeli rulers' current positions have shown that their daily jargon is divorced from any frank or clear handling of the facts and terms which could result in the achievement of true peace in the region. These rulers have persisted with their acts and practices, which are bound to torpedo the peace process, although the entire world community has reached the conclusion that separate and partial agreements cannot produce peace, nor even help achieve security and stability, and defuse conflicts and disputes in the Middle East.

The paper adds: The Israeli rulers have continued to circumvent substantive issues in the peace process to turn this process into empty slogans, which they are using on the international scene to obtain huge funds under the guise of developing the Palestinian territories and launching what they call a new Middle East, in which Israel would have the upper hand. By so doing, Israel seeks to be in a position to control the region's resources and destiny, and determine the fate of its future generations.

The paper goes on to say: We in Syria have always been sincere in our efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace. Similarly, we have been sincere in our respect for international legitimacy and its resolutions. Given this sincerity, we are extremely concerned about the foundations of the peace process. We also want to restore our territories and rights. The Israeli rulers, as well as the U.S. Administration, which launched the peace initiative, are well aware that it is impossible to achieve peace in this region as long as Israel continues to reject the principle of trading land for peace, and to oppose the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Syria will always remain willing to cooperate with any international endeavor to achieve just, comprehensive, and honorable peace in the region. But, under no circumstances will it accept the version of peace that would result in abandoning rights, territories, and dignity.

Paper Affirms Importance of Geneva Summit

JN0701084694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Jan 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Summit and the Principles of Peace," AL-THAWRAH comments on the importance of the expected Syrian-U.S. Geneva summit and of the sensitive topics and issues that Presidents al-Asad and Clinton are expected to discuss. The paper says that in light of the big hopes pinned on this summit and its results and positive impact on the future of the region and world peace as a whole, and in view of the serious situation in this region, this summit can be described as historic and exceptional.

AL-THAWRAH adds: There is no doubt that in view of Syria's weight and central role, it is impossible to achieve peace without Syria. Besides, President al-Asad symbolizes Arab strength and dignity as well as wisdom, courage, sound views, and commitment to national and pan-Arab stands and principles. Therefore, the world has testified to this leadership's efficiency and sound stands. The other side to the meeting and dialogue, represented by the United States and President Bill Clinton, is a superpower and a sponsor of the peace process. It possesses all that is needed to influence Israel. All this lends importance to the Geneva summit and enhances optimism that the summit may come out with decisive results which will save the peace process and push it toward its aspired objective on all tracks.

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria's terms for peace are constant and have not changed. For this peace to be just and comprehensive, it must cover all tracks and fronts and must be based on the Madrid terms of reference and full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and on the spirit of the U.S. initiative calling for trading land for peace.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Spokesman: Current Battles 'Holy War'

LD0601172394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Excerpt] 'Aziz Morad, spokesman for the Afghan president, in an interview with the Central News Unit in Kabul spoke of current battles in Kabul as a holy war and a second revolution. He said: These battles will continue until there is total victory over the opposition.

He also announced an agreement on a temporary cease-fire to transfer the wounded.

The spokesman for Rabbani also spoke about heavy clashes in northern Afghanistan and around the city of Mazar-e-Sharif and denied the announcement of any cease-fire in that city.

'Aziz Morad said three areas in the Faryab Province, in northern Afghanistan, have come under the control of forces of General Esmail Khan, an important commander of Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] in western Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] and the Northern Meli-ye Eslami [Islamic Front] Movement say they have also achieved fresh victories in the battle fields in northern Afghanistan.

They announced the main condition for cease-fire is the resignation of the president and the formation of a summit between the leaders of jihadi and political groups. [passage omitted]

Kabul Residents Flee During Cease-Fire

BK0701094294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Kabul, Jan 7 (AFP)—Thousands fled the Afghan capital Friday as calm returned after days of bloody fighting, with Premier Golboddin Hekmatyar's party saying he had responded "positively" to calls for a temporary cease-fire.

Heavy rain and fog over the city may also have contributed to a grounding of aircraft and the silencing of rival artillery fire.

With the peace depending on the cooperation of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and his response still unknown, thousands of local residents took advantage of the first lull in fighting in almost a week to flee with all their belongings.

Scores were reported dead and more than 3,000 people wounded in the six days of clashes tied to a power struggle in which Hekmatyar and his ally, Uzbek warlord 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, have been attempting to oust Rabbani.

Sources inside the Dostam camp, which has been most active in Kabul and backed by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] faction, said he would also accept international calls for a brief cease-fire.

Pakistan, in a "fervent appeal" Thursday, urged all warring Afghan factions in Kabul to agree to a 24-hour truce starting at 1100 GMT Friday so that all diplomatic and UN personnel living in Kabul and civilians wounded since the New Year's day coup attempt could be "evacuated on an emergency basis."

"There is no problem from our side," Hekmatyar said.

In a radio message conveyed to the foreign office from his Charasyab base east of Kabul, Hekmatyar said "we can stop fighting (from late Friday) to enable UN personnel and foreign nationals to leave Kabul" and evacuate casualties.

Moreover, hundreds of Afghans are still trapped in their shattered homes awaiting medical assistance. Many who did leave were travelling to Kabul's most northerly district, Khaikhana, which has been free of shelling.

"I don't know where to go but they told me that it is safe in Khaikhana," said one man leaving the city, Agha Mohammed. "I have no relatives there and I have no money to hire even a small room, but living in the open is better than getting hit by rockets."

Mengal Hoseyn, the Afghan premier's representative in Islamabad, said Hekmatyar "responded positively" to the cease-fire proposal on humanitarian grounds.

Asked if Dostam, whose forces are engaged in the battle, would also be ready, Hussain said "all forces fighting to oust Rabbani will be ready" for a temporary cease-fire, "including Dostam." [passage omitted]

India

BJP Leader Objects to Clinton Letter on Kashmir

BK0701125094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says India should formally register a protest with the United States against its attitude toward Kashmir. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, the party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, took exception to a letter reportedly written by President Clinton to a Washington-based supporter of militancy in Kashmir. Replying to questions, Mr. Advani said that Pakistan should be told that any further talks on Kashmir will depend on Islamabad ending its proxy war and the inclusion of the future of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the agenda.

Commentary: Kashmir Militants Losing Ground

BK0701112494 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Commentary by Harish Das: "Militants Under Pressure in Kashmir"]

[Text] The Kashmir militants are losing their base in Kashmir. The public is feeling gradually disillusioned by the promises of the militants who have hitherto been extorting money on one pretext or the other. They can no more organize public demonstrations at will. The people who are developing faith in the Indian security forces, much against Pakistan propaganda, are walking away from the Pakistan-trained extremists. The rising criminality in militant ranks and intergroup clashes are leading to frequent shooting, extortion, and kidnapping and harassment of women. The militants' guns are becoming a new symbol of power as well as access to easy money. Again, like in Punjab, the militants are resorting to recruit the youth at gunpoint.

Pakistan is also now suspicious of the Kashmir militants. The lack of faith in their capacity has resulted in greater infiltration of Afghan and other militants by ISI [Interservice Intelligence] to provide, what Pakistan says, leadership to Kashmiri militants. With most Kashmiri pundits [Brahmans] having fled the valley, militants, especially foreign mercenaries, have turned to making the local Muslims as their target whether on the suspicion of being police informers, settling personal scores, or simple criminalization.

More than 1,700 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1990 as against about 350 Hindus. Militants set on fire about 4,000 private houses, over 1,300 schools and government buildings, and have abducted over 1,100 persons. There has been alarming increase in abduction and extortion as the people of Kashmir refuse to shelter the extremists now. More significantly, public response to *bundh* [strike] calls by militants has been on the decline, especially after the successful *Hazratbal* [shrine] surrender with all their arms and foreign mercenaries.

The cleansing operations in Sopor, Baramula, and Anantnag—all erstwhile strongholds of the militants—are now comparatively calm as the security forces have maintained the pressure on extremists and have isolated them from the general public. Headlong confrontation, which has been minimal, has been confined to hard-core Kashmir militants and foreign mercenaries, especially Afghans battle-hardened in the wars against the Russian forces. This has led to increased and indirect involvement of ISI of Pakistan. The Interservice Intelligence of Pakistan is sending highly trained Pakistani and Arab terrorists into Indian territory in a desperate bid to establish a countrywide network and support system of subversion and terrorism. A report of the U.S. House Republican Research Committee says that ISI has developed a professional infiltration route for their operations via Nepal because of pressure on other areas to chalk out plans for carrying out disturbances and sabotage in the

Indian territory. The report adds that highly trained terrorists of *Jamaat-i-Tulaba* with the active support of organizations, such as the Indian Student Islamic Movement, are carrying their activities in Indian soil. The leadership has been taken away from the hands of Kashmiri Muslims, especially JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front]. Now, there is a direct Pakistan force operating in Kashmir. Pakistan schemed to internationalize the issue and is leaving no stone unturned.

The Indo-Pak talks were bound to end in fruitless exercise as was clear from the statements of Pakistan political and military leadership. The statement of Ms. Benazir Bhutto that no talks can move forward unless India concedes that Kashmir has a right to secede only goes to show that she is quite incapable of being reasonable about Kashmir and remaining as a prime minister. She is not prepared to give the same right to Sindhis or northwest frontier area of Pakistan that has all along been seeking the right to secede.

The whole world knows that Bangladesh had to pay a very heavy price to the invading Pakistan forces. The failure of Pakistan forces to get Kashmir by proxy war has led to new offensive to seek international mediation. Pakistan was never sincere in holding any talk to improve bilateral relations, much less solve the Kashmir problem. It has no love for Kashmiri Muslims. It only wants to annex Kashmir by whatever means. The leadership in Pakistan knows that it cannot take Kashmir by force, hence it is seeking international support, especially of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] countries, thinking that in the name of religion, Muslim world would come to Pakistan aid. It reflects a poor understanding of new world order by Pakistani leadership.

Efforts To 'Destabilize' State Will Be Foiled

BK0601161294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The prime minister has ruled out dissolution of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Assemblies and holding of early elections in the states. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in Nandial, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that Congress-I governments in these states have still nine months to go for elections.

Replying to a question, he asserted that efforts by external forces to destabilize the country will be foiled and India will not allow anybody to meddle with its internal affairs. Mr. Rao also said that the government is committed to deal firmly with terrorism, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, so that normal condition is returned to the state.

Earlier, addressing a public meeting in Atmakur in Kurnool District, he asserted the country will never give in to any evil designs. He said that peace is a prerequisite for development and warned that stringent action would be taken against those trying to disturb the law and order situation. Mr. Rao said the Kashmir problem will be

sorted out at the earliest and it is the center's endeavor to establish a popular government in the troubled state soon. The prime minister listed the steps taken by the center for the welfare of women and backward classes. He sought people's cooperation for effective implementation of these programs. He also said that the recent assembly election results in the northern states are clear testimony of the people's faith in the policies and programs enunciated by the Congress-I government at the center. [passage omitted]

Islamabad Said Aiding Terrorism in Muslim States

BK0701044494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Commentary by Samuel Vaid]

[Text] Although the United States has dropped Pakistan from the list of those countries being watched for their support to transborder terrorism for it what it calls lack of evidence, there are countries besides India who have been suffering because of Islamabad's post-Zia policy to support religious fundamentalist militancy to subvert stable governments and systems in other countries. Among the victims of this policy have been even the Muslim countries. Afghanistan is one of them. Pak-supported religious fundamentalists did not allow any government to survive in that country. The victory of these fundamentalist forces there has brought about a never ending nightmare for the innocent Afghan population. The Afghan president twice protested against Pakistan's support to fundamentalist forces led by Hekmatyar Khan. But these protests have been replied with only economic aid.

Egypt is another country which openly accused Pakistan of supporting those elements who wanted to destabilize the present government there. During his visit to Washington early last year, President Husni Mubarak had told President Clinton of the threat his government faced from fundamentalists trained in terrorist activities in Pakistan. The USA at that time was supposed to be keeping Pakistan under watch. It is not known what assurance Mr. Clinton gave to Mr. Mubarak. What we know, that after some months Pakistan was removed from the list of terrorism supporting countries. We also know that after the prime minister of Egypt, 'Atif Sidqi, escaped an attempt on his life last November made by a person who keeps on visiting Pakistan and Afghanistan. The name of this person is Mohammad (Makavi) who confessed to the FRONTIER POST of Peshawar last month that he was behind the attack on Mr. Sidqi's life. (Makavi) confessed that he has been fully involved in the war in Afghanistan and that he is a supporter of Hekmatyar Khan and opponent of President Borhanoddin Rabbani. His confession is vital, inasmuch as it clearly reveals that religious fundamentalists do not keep their activities confined to their own countries. This is something India has started facing in Kashmir.

Like Egypt, Algeria, too, is faced with the threat to its stability from Pakistan-trained militants. The Algerian prime minister, Redha Malek, recently told newsmen that anti-government Algerians were getting training in Afghan-Arab camps in Pakistan. They were receiving money from external sources and that money was used for buying weapons in Western countries to be transported to Algeria for terrorist activities. Mr. Mubarak [name as heard] condemned both Pakistan and Sudan for their support to these elements and pleaded with Western countries not to allow these elements to use their soil for anti-Algeria activities. What some Muslim countries are facing at the hands of Pakistan today has been the experience of India. And what is happening in Kashmir is terrorism and human rights violation at the hands of these foreign-trained elements.

Technical Snag Postpones Agni Missile Test

BK0701091894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] The scheduled third trial of the medium-range surface-to-surface missile, Agni, has been postponed. The test-firing of the country's most sophisticated missile was to be carried out today at the interim test range at Chandipur in Orissa. Our correspondent, quoting official sources in Balasore, reports that the trial was postponed at the last stage of the countdown this morning because of some technical snag. The exact date of the launching will be notified later.

Rao: Dunkel Draft Will Aid Development

BK0701084594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] The prime minister has said that acceptance of the Dunkel draft will help in accelerating the pace of development in the country. Addressing a public meeting in Nandial, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the draft is of utmost importance for India to emerge as an economic power. Staying away from the draft will isolate the country in the emerging economic scenario, the prime minister added.

Report Recommends Opening Insurance Sector

BK0701160094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] The Malhotra Committee on reforms in the insurance sector submitted its report to the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in New Delhi today. The committee in its report has called for allowing the private sector and foreign companies in the insurance sector. But it has suggested certain controls for its efficient working in the new economic conditions. The 33-point recommendation submitted by the former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Mr. R.N. Malhotra, has suggested that the private sector companies must have a minimum pay-back capital of 100 crore rupees and the promoter stage should not exceed 40 percent of

the capital. The report said that if the foreign insurance companies were allowed, they should float Indian companies. The committee has recommended that LIC [Life Insurance Corporation] should be converted into a company registered under the Companies Act.

The report says Postal Life Insurance should be permitted to transact life insurance business in the rural areas among the general public. The committee has recommended that the ownership pattern of the LIC, GIC [General Insurance Corporation] and its four subsidiary companies should be changed by reducing government share holding to 50 percent. It has also suggested that all insurance companies should be equally governed by the provisions of the Insurance Act. The committee was set up in April last year to examine the existing structure of the insurance industry and to suggest changes in light of the new economic policy.

Singh Meets With UAE Foreign Minister

BK0601160694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] India and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have agreed to sign an extradition treaty to help contain terrorism. This was decided at a meeting in New Delhi today between the UAE foreign minister, Mr. Mohammad Khalifa Bin Yusuf al-Zubaidi, and the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh. An External Affairs Ministry release later said that considerable headway has been made in this regard. Discussions at the levels of experts will be held in Abu Dhabi at an early date. The two countries also signed an agreement to control narcotics and drug trafficking by exchanging information and increasing cooperation. At the end of the three days of the joint commission meeting, the two countries also signed a cultural exchange program for 1994-96. At their meeting, both Mr. al-Zubaidi and Mr. Dinesh Singh expressed satisfaction at the recommencement of India-Pakistan dialogue. The two ministers hoped that the process will continue.

New Delhi, Beijing To Increase Mining Cooperation

BK0701102594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] India and China are to increase their cooperation in the field of coal mining. India is interested in sharing China's experience and technology in mechanized long-wall mining in underground mines. Greater emphasis is now being laid on underground mines, as over 70 percent of Indian coal is coming from open-cast mines at present. Underground mining is necessary to increase the production of superior grade coal as well as coking coal whose deposits are available at deeper levels. Specific areas of collaboration between the two countries are expected to be finalized during the visit of a high-level delegation led by the coal minister, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja, to China beginning from Sunday [9 January].

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Leads Tehran Friday Prayers

Report on First Sermon

LD0701121894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Excerpt] With the participation of the worshipping masses, the political-religious rites of Friday prayers were staged today simultaneously all over the country. In Tehran, the Friday prayers were led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moselmin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the beginning of his sermons, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran set out to describe the mission of the prophets and the battle between evil and righteousness. He said: After the passage of seven centuries since the mission of His Holiness Jesus Christ—may peace be upon him—humanity was in dire need of a new prophethood. Then the greatest miracle in the history of mankind occurred, and with the prophethood of the esteemed prophet of Islam, a comprehensive and all-embracing doctrine was created that was able to nurture human beings, build civilizations, and provide all the answers to all the needs of mankind in all eras and historical junctures. In this way, God was able to communicate His fundamental ethos to mankind through the Prophet's tongue.

Even at that time, the atheist and arrogant camp lined up against God's prophet, and stopped at nothing in their confrontation against the divine messenger. They were shamelessly ungrateful and employed the most violent and coercive measures to keep the history's most eternal truth well-hidden. However, this school of thought [Islam] was to become the architect of a great civilization, which has about 1.5 billion followers today. During the last 15 years, the most beautiful manifestation of this civilization has been crystallized by the selflessness and the sacrifices of the nation of Iran.

Moreover, the president clarified: At present, history is witnessing the repeat of events that unfolded at the advent of Islam. The plight that the Islamic world faces today is the same as the one that the prophet had to endure during the early days of Islam. A glance at the conditions of Muslims in various parts of the world, such as Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kashmir, Bosnia, and Palestine, and the silence of the West toward their plight, testifies to this reality.

At the end of the first sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to consider the Prophet, his ethics, and his characteristics in life, worship, piety, and jihad as a model. [passage omitted]

Discusses Economy in Second Sermon

LD0701153394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Second Friday prayer sermon by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 7 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the second sermon, in addition to calling the people to piety, the performance of our religious duties, acting on what is made obligatory, and shunning that which has been forbidden, I wish to refer to the present condition of our revolution and our country in pursuance of some of the recent remarks of the esteemed leader of the revolution [Khamene'i]. In my view, it is an important topic and I hope that our ummah will pay special attention to this important topic.

Recently, in his remarks the leader has a few times stressed an issue to which I feel the media has not paid sufficient attention, despite the fact that full attention is usually paid to his remarks. That issue, which is a very important issue, is his repeated references to the fact that today it is a major sin—an unforgivable sin—to create despondency among the people. He is emphatic on this point and repeatedly refers to it. I wish to talk a little concerning these comments. I believe that it is an appropriate time to raise this issue, because I feel that we are faced with a very dangerous and a very mischievous propaganda conspiracy.

We have completed one period of reconstruction and we are on the threshold of launching the second plan. I wish to provide some explanations that are also relevant to our discussion. That plan is now being studied by the Majles. I have a very clear impression, and there are numerous clues for it, that the world arrogance, especially America—because today it is the leader of that propaganda campaign and is guiding those pressures—has realized that the Islamic revolution has successfully passed through many dangerous stages that they predicted would lead us to a dead end, that the people are reaching the stage of necessary confidence, and that the country is achieving necessary stability. They are afraid that if this revolution, with all that it stands for, achieves full political, economic, and cultural stability and if it can strengthen its foundations they will no longer be able to damage it and the matter will be completely taken out of their hands.

You are aware of the previous stages and how they confronted us at each stage. Today we are entering a completely new stage, and I see that there is an organized propaganda campaign waged against us, so that the people may lose their confidence in Islam and feel that the revolution and Islam will not be able to build the country and will not be able to create prosperity for the people. This in short is the essence of the propaganda onslaught that is being waged by them today. Its aim is to weaken the morale of the people, if they succeed. If they do succeed in creating despondency among the people they have achieved their greatest goal in history and have

prevented a danger that threatens the center of world arrogance. They will then be able to weaken the general movement that exists in the world today.

Iran is not their only target. Today you see in some newspapers—there are of course many such reports, but here you only see a small portion of it—that arrogant observers have become worried that the wave of Islam has passed beyond the borders of Iran, that the new Islam, the Islam that was propagated by the Imam [Khomeyni] has transcended Iranian frontiers and has penetrated many Islamic countries. Even in Western countries it has aroused a great deal of interest among the perceptive individuals—not ordinary people who are influenced by propaganda, but people of conscience, people of understanding. They have this fear.

Therefore, they have to deliver their blow at the base of the revolution. If here they can persuade the people that this is not in their interest, then they have achieved their aim. I am sorry that to a large extent they receive the basic material for their propaganda from inside our country. Certain people who have good intentions and who feel concerned about the country raise some minor issues and magnify some difficulties and problems to such an extent that immediately you see that Radio Israel, BBC Radio, and Voice of America broadcast it back to us. And it is not limited to those three radio stations. You notice that any small issue that we raise here reverberates throughout the world and gives rise to a flood of special articles in newspapers, which are today regarded as the source material for the newspapers in the Third World. They are then translated and taken to all Islamic countries.

It requires special alertness. I get really worried when I see that well-intentioned individuals quote certain untrue figures and statistics that are contrary to the realities and that will only lead to the despondency of the people and make them negative. They will weaken the morale of the people or, at least, sow the seeds of doubt in them. This is our very serious duty—to mention our positive points, to talk about the efforts of these people, the endeavors of this nation, the gains of this nation.

Perhaps one of the reasons for this—I am not sure if this is the reason—is that our media is inclined to give prominence to negative reports. Those who are interested in appearing in the media say something negative, because they see that the following day their names and remarks are published in big letters on the front pages of newspapers. Of course, a person might have said something with good intentions, so that he can express what is in his heart. See what is happening in the world today, and why the leader of the revolution regards this as a major sin.

This does not mean that we should not refer to the difficulties. It does not mean that we should not criticize. If we do not criticize, the issues will not be put right. However, one should say these things in such a way that one only refers to the facts. If a certain organization

wishes to say, for instance, that the deprived classes are faced with problems, and if it raises a slogan that the bones of the deprived classes are being crushed [in last week's Friday prayer sermons Ayatollah Jannati used an almost identical sentence saying that the bones of deprived classes are being crushed], then he [as heard] should also give the correct figures and statistics. He should say how much we are spending from the public treasury for the deprived classes, how much we are spending in deprived areas, how much we are spending on reconstruction, how much we are paying in subsidies to them, how cheaply we are selling the bread, how cheaply we are selling the fuel, how cheaply we are selling vegetable oil, how cheaply we are selling medicine. Let him give those figures, and then say that there are also some problems, so that the people may know that their treasury, their country, their Majles, their government, their leader are working for them. However, if one only comes and says that the situation is a certain way... [pauses] if one did not know those individuals one would have doubted their sincerity.

At times, I feel that there are some deceitful, satanic individuals who get close to podiums and pens and produce false figures, and then it goes into the newspapers. This has happened, and whether some people try to make amends for those mistakes or not the feeling of despondency will continue. As your trusted friend I tell you that with the implementation of the First Plan world arrogance realized that it has lost out.

They realized the country's problems were solved, that there are no more problems. The biggest problem in the country was our strong dependence on foreign currency earned from oil sales. The West could always bring our country to its knees with that weapon.

Four or five years into the plan they realized that Iran is not as vulnerable as they had thought because we have non-oil exports worth at least \$5 billion annually. Of course, it is about \$4 billion in official figures, because those who export do not put down true figures. If, for example, their goods are worth \$1,500, they put down \$1,000 in their statements. The true figure is higher. We have also saved more than that amount.

In many areas we do not need the foreign currency earned from oil sales. Raw materials for many factories—steel, aluminium, copper, chemicals, and others—are domestically produced. Many intermediary goods are produced by our own industries. They make the machinery.

The food situation is not like in the past. If we put slight pressure on consumption and control the consumption of bread and other things, our present grain production would be sufficient for our needs. Tea is reaching self-sufficiency. Wheat has had a marvelous growth. Chickens have reached self-sufficiency. Food in our country is generally no longer imported, except for a few items. For example, if we were importing \$4 billion

worth of foodstuffs three years ago, we need to import \$1 billion today. That is, about a third.

I can see that our needs from the outside world have decreased. Many of the heavy machinery that you see—tractors, bulldozers, loaders, wagons, locomotives, engines for large and small machinery—a large portion of them are being built by our own industries.

Our defense industries' requirements were always imported and we had to undergo a huge expense. We now import practically none of our defense needs.

It is the same with the chemical industry, which is the most important. Oil by-products, which we used to import, we are now producing—most of them ourselves. We are expanding gas to replace other fuels.

The West realize that our dependence on oil has decreased. For that reason, now that they cause a shock and talk about dealing us blows, they deal a blow to their own friends.

Despite the fact that the price of our oil came down by nearly 30 percent in our budget calculations, we submitted our budget—and also the Plan—to the Majles like that of 1372 with a different growth figure.

This is due to the fact that the infrastructural works carried out during the course of the First Plan have yielded their intended results, and today the problem of dependence on oil has been resolved to a large extent. Of course, if oil generates more income, we will naturally be able to work faster. For instance, instead of spending \$10 billion on reconstruction, we will be able to spend \$20 billion. However, if such an increase is not possible, we will not be facing any danger. The speed of work might be reduced, but the country will not face any danger. Enough infrastructural works have been carried out in our country to meet our needs today.

If we do not face any unforeseen event, then we can be confident that for the next five years we will have no electrical power cuts and black-outs in this country. At present, we have connected 200 towns to the national gas network, and we are in the process of connecting other towns with a great deal of speed. We have taken telephone lines to the heart of our rural areas. Our transport system is enjoying a full balance, in the sense that we have enough cargo for our trucks, while at the same time the cargo does not have to wait for trucks. The capacity of our ports has increased from 16 million tonnes to 28 million tonnes, and at present we do not have any problem with our ports. We have, to a large extent, harnessed our water resources. Moreover, we are managing to meet the needs of our factories for raw material with what we produce domestically. Praise be to God, the country does not have any problems at the moment. This is exactly the thing that has worried the arrogant countries.

I have been informed that during confidential meetings between Western countries discussing Iran, the Americans have stated that this, and not Islamic fundamentalism, is the danger they faced. When the right time comes, we will of course reveal all this in a documented manner. The Americans have said: This constitutes the real danger, and we should not allow Iran to develop itself. If Iran manages to accomplish this, then we will not be able to do anything.

However, we have already passed through this stage during the course of our first development plan, and it is now too late for the Westerners to realize this and enter the arena. If they had delivered this petroleum-shock to us four years ago, then there would have been danger. Today, however, there is no danger, whatever they do. I can confidently tell you, as your expert, that even if they stop our oil exports, Iran can still maintain its present course and enjoy the same conditions as today. Of course, if such a thing were to happen, then the process of development would have to slow down. Still, that would not constitute a problem. If, for example, we were intent on building a factory in two years, we would then have to do it in five years. [passage omitted]

What, however, is clear is that we have overcome the dangers, and today the Westerners are intent on disheartening the people. This is because the type of work we have carried out can naturally have economic and social consequences.

The most important thing that we ever did... [pauses] one of the most important things that we have done was to reform the price systems. They consider this a weak point, however. I would like to emphasize that it is absolutely impossible for us to be able to reconstruct our country by creating artificial prices and imposing on domestic products by employing mechanisms such as ration coupons and legislations. No industry can expect growth if its products are sold at artificially set prices. No industrial producer will ever enter the arena willingly under such circumstances. The reform in the price system was another major problem of ours, the bulk of which has been resolved, while the what remains must be dealt with step by step.

Those moribund snakes who have left this winter behind, have started to raise certain issues and ignore all the services offered by the government. Although they are aware that these issues are really points of strength, they still raise them hoping they may be able to weaken the people's morale. However, they are once again mistaken, as these people are very discerning.

When I made the trip to Mazandaran just recently—you saw a few small corners of what I saw there—the people showed their mettle. The people are always waiting for an opportunity to express their feelings, what they understand. The people naturally carried out the maneuvers of being truly present in the arena. They made me understand that all those ill-omened and disheartening themes that are being fanned from some podiums domestically

and by some foreign media cannot discourage them. They are far advanced in understanding the issues. They understand better than those who imagine themselves to understand and talk big. [passage omitted]

It was the same in countries abroad; the same in our neighboring countries. We have had visits abroad and you yourselves have seen their example. The eyes of the Muslims outside also are on us. Fortunately the signs of Iran's construction are there as well. Mr. Niyazov who was our guest during these last few days said that the officials of heads of the CIS who were in Ashgabat three or four days ago reported to their heads that the Turkmen markets are full of goods, contrary to the other CIS states. Then the CIS heads asked where those goods came from and were told from our Iranian brethren. The Iranian merchants are filling this place in that way. That means that your neighbor is feeling the signs of construction here because of its commercial link with you. Then all the CIS heads encouraged that link, instead of being concerned.

That is the Iranian that you say seeks to export terrorism.

That is the movement that exists. Let us not be ungrateful for that bounty of God. I am not claiming that we do not have any difficulties either. We certainly have difficulties. Sometimes something is expensive, something may be hard to find, some might bully. Well, such incidents in a state that seeks to reconstruct, which seeks to invest in its infrastructure, seeks to struggle and lock horns with the most satanic power in the world, seeks to confront international embargoes—well, it will have such problems as well. It is not right that a country that annually is spending hundreds of thousands of millions of tumans [10 rials] on the deprived through subsidies, through services to deprived area, through relief committees, through other organizations that have a relief aspect for the people, and many other ways. Essentially the revolution is for the deprived and essentially it is the deprived who are our friends and army in the revolution arena. Then we should constantly say from our podiums and by our pens that the deprived are being crushed. Sometimes one sees some individuals who say that the bones of the vulnerable stratum are being broken. They misspell bone, yet they can chant slogans very well.

Let us not approach the people's morale in this way. The services that we are giving to those same people are not in my hands or the hands of those like me. It is the masses of the people, our community, our Hezbollahi managers, our oppressed revolutionary personalities who are advancing their country toward God as well as toward welfare in the face of the wave upon wave of prevalent mischief. They must be supported. Our enemies must not be allowed to open up unsound windows and enter with poisonous propaganda. We should not dishearten those people who are in the arena, self-sacrificing and heroic; a people who have always routed the enemy by their heroism. That is the word of the leader. In his remarks he had other great words. He said compare your country with your neighbors and the other

developing countries. I do not wish to name them and give figures about their lives. Their difficulties are not at all comparable to ours. Their conditions of life are not comparable to ours. That must be made a point—power and morale in the people.

Of course many of our friends and media constantly publish figures and the services rendered. The only point I want to make is that anyone who is interested in the revolution today must avoid disheartening the people pointlessly. Of course, however, if there is some truth to be told, if it is not told it is possible for the falsehood or the wrong or the deviation to remain. It is right to criticize; it is right to point out problems; it is right to reform; and it is right to pursue reform and also to confront wrongdoers. All that has its own path, but all must be for encouraging the people, heartening the people and their presence in the arenas, because that is the very thing that is a thorn in the side of world arrogance. It is the very thing that is targeted by world arrogance to prevent the people from remaining in the arena. Thank God our people are so alert and so aware that in these 15 years they have come through the hardest trials with honor.

At the end of this sermon I must offer congratulations and condolences to the families of the martyrs whose noble bodies we will be escorting for burial today. One of the most painful and one of the most selfless families are those who have men missing in action. Their position is even more difficult than the families of the martyr's because at least they have the grave of their martyr and their situation is clear. Our dear forces on the borders are carrying out a tremendous job through finding the markers that we had for them, identity tags and numbers, which are found in either the Iraqi or Iranian soil. They are gradually finding the unknown martyrs, who are considered, for the time being, to be missing. I thank them and also call on them to speed up their operations so we could know. For this very reason we do not know how many prisoners we have in Iraq. Many of those who we think are prisoners might be martyrs or vice versa. This is a very valuable job and I thank them. We also humbly thank the families of the missing, may God bless them greater patience. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Economic Plan, Oil Income

NC0701123194 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES
(INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 30 Dec 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Let's Be Realistic Toward Oil Revenues"]

[Text] Last week President Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented the Second 5-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan along with the 1373 (1994-1995) Budget Bill to Majles (Islamic Consultative Assembly).

In view of the discussions made by the cabinet members and Majles representatives, the Second 5-Year Plan might not start from the next Iranian calendar year and might be postponed to 1374 (1995-1996).

An official announcement has not yet been released in this regard.

Thus the year 1373 will be of momentum, making the sound and meticulous survey of the budget and adoption of favorable policies decisive for the country.

The country's overall budget in 1373 will amount to Rls. [rials] 79686.7 billion, showing marked increase as compared to the previous year.

Revenues stand out prominently in next year's budget: Of the entire revenues of next year's budget—that is Rls. 33,592 billion, some Rls. 22,026 billion (amounting to 65 percent) are earned through oil incomes.

Apparently, this is largely wishful thinking in view of the slope in the oil prices over the past year and the possibility of continued oil price drops.

By far, if the year 1373 opens up with such a speculation, the country's economy will face manifold bottle-necks. To put it better, the officials in charge of the country's economy and industry try to boost the oil prices in the global markets.

Meanwhile, these officials should have a sound and realistic estimation of the oil prices so as to prepare themselves for hard times, to pocket more revenues through non-oil exports, and to base the next year's budget on less dependence on oil incomes.

The year 1373 is a milestone since important plans such as the first phase of Martyr Rajai's Thermal Power Plant, Sarkhun's Gas Refinery, the second phase of Arak's Petrochemical Plant, the Petrochemical Plant of Imam Khomeini's Port, and ... will come to fruition. As such, the incomes, expenditures, economic policies should be more realistic.

Hopefully, the Majles representatives and the cabinet members will approve of the 1373 budget bill after thoroughly and precisely discussing and surveying it, so that next year will see the materialization of the country's economic, social, and cultural objectives.

Editorial Views Alternatives to Oil Income

NC0701123194 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 3 Jan 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Alternative to Oil"]

[Text] Oil prices have fallen by about 30 percent over the past 12 months or so. And all those oil producing countries, both within and without OPEC, that rely primarily on oil for income are suffering and will continue to do so if they do not devise real alternatives to oil as a source of their livelihood.

Iran is no exception to the above rule and it is suffering just as hard both externally (debt and its servicing) and domestically (spiralling inflation and uncertain economic future). But there might be a difference between

Iran and the majority of other oil producing countries. The Islamic Revolution and its republic have advocated efforts towards reducing dependence on oil, and finding alternative to it, from the moment of victory as the centerpiece of its economic policy. The most important alternative, and one which the government promoted whole-heartedly, has been to strengthen foreign trade and enter international markets.

But the government campaign to cut reliance on oil has remained just that, and in practice no tangible results in this connection have been made. The reason for this failure is that the oil income has been too readily available. In the foreign trade, or export promotion arena, there have been some advances but the income has been too small and the gains too partial to be of any effect.

The reason for the government's partial success in the foreign trade has been due to the absence of a long-run, well-researched and integrated trade policy. And there will be no real success unless the government relinquishes its short-run, inconsistent, and sometimes contradictory, policies.

Oil prices have fallen and there are indications from the international economy, and its lingering recession, that this trend is not temporary, and that the low oil prices will not rise in the foreseeable future. And this is where the governments of oil producing countries, and especially Iran, come in to make the necessary adjustments and perhaps make the best of a bad situation. The Islamic Republic seems to be finally ready to institute the painful and real changes and compensate for the lost income.

How can the government do that?—compensate for the lost income. The immediate and the one that applies to all situations is to cut fat, or unnecessary expenses, reduce the size of government, or at least stop its growth, transfer over to the private sector those tasks or responsibilities it is unable to do effectively, institute administrative reforms to improve efficiency, and use the available resources more effectively, among others.

As in often the case when governments lose some projected sources of income, the immediate alternative is to hike taxes, and raise the price of products and services they provide. It was disclosed by the head of Majles plan and budget commission that the government's proposed budget bill, presented to the Majles last week, is providing for a tax hike amounting to some 100 billion rials.

For the Islamic Government the income from tax hike is a real alternative just as the incomes from export promotion or tourism can be. But the government should approach this matter ingeniously by trying to widen and diversify its sources of income.

When it comes to taxes or their hikes as alternative source of income to oil, the government should be careful. Because it is a sensitive issue and the wrong approach to it can backfire. The existing tax collection

system has often come under fire as being weak and inappropriate. The country's present tax apparatus is in need of a change to make it responsive to the needs of a changing society.

Formerly the widely practiced and internationally accepted tax paying culture had no acceptance basis, and the Iranian people used to pay taxes reluctantly. That has changed, and people pay taxes willingly as a part of their social responsibility. But what people ask of the Islamic government is to collect taxes equitably and justly. There are a lot of people who believe the government does not need to raise taxes or move people to higher tax brackets. What it should and can do is improve tax collection system. The higher income as a result of improved collection system might be beyond government's belief. Otherwise arbitrary tax hikes lead to inflation, which can offset the government's increased income.

In Iran a lot of people with very high incomes do not pay taxes, or if they do what they pay comes nowhere close to the real taxes they should be paying. Also, because the supply is often below demand, there is no real competitive market condition, and the general public has no choice but to buy what it needs, the producers of goods and services are not often afraid of tax hikes because they can always pass it down to the consumer by raising the prices of their products or tampering with quality. The government should devise a plan to deal with these problems. Only then can it be sure that it has the support of the public for what it is doing.

Official Cited on GATT Membership

LD0601133994 Tehran IRNA in English 1251 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Membership in General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) can play a determining role in development and expansion of world economy, said a Foreign Ministry official here Wednesday [5 January].

Head of the international organizations department of Foreign Ministry, Bozorgmehr Ziaran, in an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' published today commented on Iran's decision to apply for membership in GATT.

"Formation of such a large multilateral trade organization after seven years of exhaustive discussions would strengthen the previous international ties between member states in such fields as agriculture, industry and textile," Ziaran added.

On membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in GATT, he said "It is a matter of utmost importance for our country's decision-makers to consider the articles of this world agreement deeply and meticulously before making the proper final choice. Such an important decision should be made in a way that will minimize the risk of any damage to our national economy," the Foreign Ministry official stressed.

As for official stand on the issue, he said "Serious discussions have been going on for quite some time now, but the policy makers of the Islamic Republic have not yet announced their decision."

Turkmenistan President, Delegation End Visit

Niyazov Signs Agreements

LD0601125294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan today signed 11 agreements in the fields of economics, politics, trade, and culture at the end of the visit to Tehran by the Turkmen president.

President Saparmurad Niyazov, who visited our country at the head of a high-ranking delegation, left Tehran at noon today after signing these agreements. He was seen off officially by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Our correspondent reports: With the signing of 11 cooperation agreements by the presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan, economic, political, trade, and cultural cooperation between the two countries have increased.

On the basis of the agreements signed today by the two countries' presidents at the end of Mr. Niyazov's official visit to our country, Iran and Turkmenistan will cooperate on transport, communications, gas and oil, electricity, railways, trade, banking relations, education, and training.

Turkmen President Niyazov today expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his five-day official visit to our country. He said:

[Begin Niyazov recording, speaking in Turkmen, fading into Persian translation] This trip has had a profound and very positive effect on us, and on behalf of the people and government of Turkmenistan, we sincerely thank Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for laying the foundation for strong relations between the two countries. [end recording]

Mr. Niyazov said that close and growing cooperation between the two countries are exemplary, and that some important agreements have been signed which will be beneficial to the people of the two countries and will also have their deserved impact on regional and international political cooperation.

The Turkmen president thanked the people and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their warm hospitality.

Speaking about the outcome of his talks with the Turkmen president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our country's president, said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The visit by His

Excellency Mr. Niyazov and his delegation was an interesting one. As far as official visits are concerned, it could even be considered as rather unique, because almost all the members of Turkmenistan's cabinet, together with governors general, vice presidents, deputy ministers, Friday prayer leaders, and other key Turkmen figures accompanied the Turkmen president.

This was quite a revealing thing, in that it showed how serious both sides were to work together in all fields. He himself explained that he left only the speaker of parliament and the chief of the police behind, and brought everyone else to Iran to make expansion of cooperation possible. This also proves what a stable and secure place Turkmenistan is if its entire officialdom can stay out of the country for five days. This is yet another interesting point, and this tranquillity and stability provides the people of Turkmenistan with the opportunity to develop their newly-independent country. They should appreciate their stability, especially in view of what is now happening in other countries with a background similar to Turkmenistan.

The length of the visit was also noteworthy. They were here for five days, during which they visited many places and held talks on a multitude of subjects. Fortunately, today we witness the commissioning of 480 telephone lines between our two countries. Through these lines, Turkmenistan will be connected to the whole world via Iran. This is just one aspect of the revival of the ancient Silk Road, albeit in a modern context.

We signed many agreements when we visited there, and our work there was carried over to this trip and was completed in the talks between the officials. Agreements have been signed in all fields.

Good as the progress in cooperation has been in these past two to three years, I think that after this trip the pace of cooperation will be even faster. I think the other countries in the region can also benefit from our cooperation. No country should think that our cooperation with Turkmenistan is at odds with their interests; on the contrary, I believe this will pave the way for others to join in. [end recording]

Niyazov Granted Honorary Citizenship

LD0601124394 Tehran IRNA in English 1151 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—On the final day of his five-day state visit to Iran, Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov was granted an honorary citizenship status by Tehran Mayor Gholam Hoseyn Karbaschi, Thursday [6 January].

Speaking at the ceremony, also attended by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Niyazov lauded Tehran's municipality for granting him honorary citizenship, saying this indicated the durability and continuation of reciprocal services between the two nations.

He said the frontiers separating the two countries in the past have now been turned into border of friendship.

The Turkmen president saying he was certain of fruitfulness of his visit to Iran, noted relations between the two neighboring governments not only benefit the two states but also play a key role in world political scene.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that plan on mutual cooperation formulated between the two countries during President Niyazov's stay in Iran was a step towards bringing mutual relations closer.

The Iranian president said that he and his Turkmen counterpart will support any measure aimed at broadening Tehran-Ashgabat relations.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD0601134294 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, (IRNA)—Iran and Turkmenistan on Thursday [6 January] signed several letters of understanding for political, military and border cooperation.

The documents were signed by the visiting Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov before his departure at the end of a five-day state visit and his Iranian counterpart President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Meanwhile, several other letters of understanding were inked between the Turkmen officials and their Iranian counterparts including one on joint cooperation to combat drug trafficking by Iranian and Turkmen nationals. The document was signed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Turkmen counterpart.

Minister of Roads and Transportation Akbar Torkan signed a letter of understanding on bilateral cooperation on railways and shipping with his Turkmen counterpart.

An economic-trade letter of understanding was signed by Iran's Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq and his Turkmen counterpart.

Another letter was inked on bilateral cooperation in the field of oil by Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and his Turkmen counterpart.

A letter was signed by Iran's head of customs department Abdul Hoseyn Vahaji and his Turkmen counterpart on transit of goods and customs affairs.

Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh signed a letter of understanding with his Turkmen counterpart on energy and transfer of surplus Turkmen electricity to other countries through the Iranian territory.

Governors general of central banks of Iran and Turkmenistan signed a letter of understanding for improving Tehran-Ashgabat banking relations.

President Bids Farewell to Niyazov

LD0601135494 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, (IRNA)—Seeing off Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov at the end of his five-day official visit to Iran Thursday [6 January], President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed Niyazov's visit to Tehran as a "turning point" in mutual relations.

The two presidents also announced that promotion of Tehran-Ashgabat relations will gain further momentum from now on.

The Turkmen president told reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport that three historical documents had been inked between the two countries during his visit.

"The Turkmen delegation did a great job in conjunction with their Iranian counterparts in economic, trade and cultural fields...the agreements reached between the two countries will entail great results for both nations in the future," he said.

Hojatoleslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the visit of President Niyazov to Tehran is unique compared with other official visits made to Iran, because all Turkmen cabinet ministers, Friday prayer leaders and other influential officials of that country were present here.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani maintained that mutual cooperation will take a greater momentum after President Niyazov's visit, adding that this would be beneficiary to other countries of the region.

Velayati on Niyazov Visit, Afghanistan

LD0601155794 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Jan 94

["Exclusive"] Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, what were the main issues discussed between the visiting Turkmen delegation and the Iranian officials.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Excellency President Saparmurad Niyazov has come here on the basis of the invitation of our president, and he has reciprocated the recent visit of our president to Turkmenistan. He and his entourage stayed here for five days. During their stay here they have made very good discussions with their Iranian counterparts in different ministries and in different committees. At the end of his trip we had signed eleven documents. Three of these documents were signed by [the] two presidents. I think after the signing of these documents many facilities have been provided for the expansion of relations between our two countries.

[Correspondent] As you know, Afghanistan is now facing a very critical situation. What are the measures and stances taken by Iran towards the on-going Afghan crisis?

[Velayati] This is [a] very unfortunate situation. You know the people of Afghanistan since the very beginning after the occupation of that country by the former Soviet forces, they have tried a lot to expel the former Soviet forces and they have succeeded. So the first part of their struggle was very successful. But, unfortunately, after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan they have started fighting against each other. We as the Islamic Republic of Iran are against any kind of internal conflict. We don't support any party against another party. What we have done till now is bringing all factions together and trying to make a peaceful settlement among all these factions which are fighting against each other. We deeply believe that any kind of internal conflict is against the interest of the people of Afghanistan.

[Reporter] Iran has decided to resume diplomatic relations with South Africa. On what basis has this decision been made and how long the normalization of ties will continue?

[Velayati] You know this decision was made last night in the Cabinet meeting, and we have been instructed by the government to prepare the ground for resumption of relations with South Africa. After the recent important developments we could witness in South Africa and on the basis of the request of the head of important groups there, ANC [African National Congress] and EAC [Ease African Community], and specifically Mr. Mandela has asked us to resume our relations, and Muslim groups in South Africa also have asked us. So we think that as a first step we have to resume our economic relations with South Africa, and after the elections, which will be held in, before the end of April, after the end of that elections we think that the time will be right for the resumption of the political relations.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, sir.

[Velayati] You are welcome.

Interior Minister on Afghan, Iraqi Refugees

LD0601172694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In an interview with our reporter on the return of the Afghan refugees or their settlement in Iran, Interior Minister Mr. Besharati-Jahromi said: At present some 700,000 Afghan refugees live in our country. On the basis of a project prepared by the UNHCR a number of Afghan immigrants voluntarily returned home, before the recent civil war and fratricide in Afghanistan. As of next Nowruz [21 March 1994], the said project will be followed up; however, if there are some who desire to stay in Iran, then we will issue cards for them. [passage omitted]

The interior minister said Iraqi refugees in Iran numbered around 50,000.

Official Interviewed on Afghanistan

LD0601194294 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1628 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Interview with Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, head of the Foreign Ministry's second bureau in charge of West Asian affairs, by unidentified announcer; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Mr. Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, about two years have passed since the victory of the Afghan mojahedin. During that period, we have witnessed relative, sporadic, and intermittent clashes among the Afghan struggling groups in that country, despite the general belief that after victory they would reach a relative understanding and begin rebuilding the country. But we have actually witnessed that they have failed to reach a comprehensive agreement. What are the reasons for the clashes?

[Taherian] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you pointed out, during the past two years, and after the mojahedin entered Kabul, they have had various agreements among themselves that have never been completely put into practice. Perhaps one of the reasons is that none of those agreements has ever taken into consideration the rights of all the groups in a comprehensive and complete manner and has not paid complete attention to all the realities existing in Afghanistan. At times interference by those who did not know about the Afghan issue and were outside the region has resulted in a failure for any serious work to be done. It must be said, unfortunately, that the monopolistic tendencies of some individuals have become an added burden and resulted in our witnessing repeated clashes in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and intermittent fighting in various areas in Afghanistan in the past two years, an Afghanistan that has been beset by war, bloodshed, and destruction for 14 years. And that has continued because of what I told you.

[Announcer] You made a passing reference to the role of foreign factors in this. What do you believe its extent to be?

[Taherian] What is definite is that the forces outside the region and those elements who are not present in the region have had some connections with some of the groups. And those connections have always resulted in—without taking into consideration the interests of the Muslim people of Afghanistan and what the people of Afghanistan need—them seeking their own specific goals. That definitely is one of the factors that has resulted in continued clashes or at times has started clashes.

In the past two years we have seen clashes that one can specifically connect to foreign elements, to the affiliation that some groups have with foreign elements. The result

of all that has always been one loser—the suffering Muslim people of Afghanistan.

[Announcer] Mr. Taherian, achieving a relative understanding is an important parameter in the Afghan events. Everyone, particularly us in the Islamic Republic wish for the Afghan groups to solve their problems in peace and to reach an understanding. But what do you propose as a particular political solution to the Afghan problem?

[Taherian] As you have pointed out, the Islamic Republic of Iran stood by the holy war of the Afghan Muslim people against the Soviet occupiers. After victory and mojahedin's entrance to Kabul, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to stand by them and has always wished for the improvement of the Afghan situation and has given practical help to the Muslim people. It has done so during the jihad as well as the mojahedin victory and will continue to do so. We are certain that for regional stability, the Afghan problem should be solved through negotiations between the jihad groups.

In answering your first question, I pointed out that the problems existing between the conflicting groups have their roots in the past two years and possibly even in the pre-victory period. The important principle that must be taken into account by all those interested in finding a solution is the reality of the situation—Afghanistan is a Muslim and a multinational country. Any solution must take these two factors into account. Furthermore, all the groups have a large amount of weapons. The [Soviet] occupiers can not claim that they developed the country. While Afghanistan was occupied, they provided weapons for various groups more than anything else, and Afghanistan has been turned into an ammunition dump.

These several factors must be taken into account for any solution that might be put forward. And the Afghan groups must also consider that any solution that is going to be planned and programmed, if it is going to be turned into law, must recognize the rights of all nationalities, groups, and parties. They must be given their portion of rights. We would be wrong to think that a group, on its own, could achieve supremacy. Unfortunately all groups have experienced this one way or another. If they go alone on a path, they would achieve nothing. It seems that the most reasonable way is first for the mojahedin and people of Afghanistan to find a solution based on Islamic principles and according to the ethnic conditions of the country. And second, Afghanistan's neighbors could prepare the grounds for such discussions and the necessary dialogue that must take place between the various groups, so as to allow Afghan groups to sit together around a table and find a reasonable solution based on Islamic principles acceptable by nearly all the people. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges Regional Summit on Afghanistan

NC0701120694 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Enough Is Enough"]

[Text] Disgusting and appalling news are emerging again from Afghanistan which once used to be called a symbol of sacrifice for the sake of independence and self-respect. The same Afghanistan produced an ugly image in the international opinion after the culmination of their struggle in 1991 when the Soviet Union-installed government ceased to exist.

The Mojahedin, who had been ready to sacrifice all they had in the way of the armed struggle against the Communist occupiers, turned their guns against each other. So far more civilians and military personnel have become victims of their revenge than all the casualties recorded during the 15 years of Soviet occupation.

Western countries led by the United States ran away from Afghanistan as after the conclusion of the Cold War and the disintegration of the Soviet Union their interest in the land-locked country ended.

But regional countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan, have done their best to solve the internal fight, and have met with no success.

Former Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif took all the warring parties to Islam's holiest place, in Mecca, where the Mojahedin vowed not to fight with each other and work for the reconstruction of their almost destroyed country during 15 years of war with the Reds.

Their pledge before the Almighty in Whose name they fought the Communists had no meaning and several times they have shed the blood of their own brothers.

The last was on Saturday when hundreds of rockets slammed into Kabul, the worst onslaught on the shattered capital in months.

The forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Hekmatyar battled in other parts of the country also.

It looks like the Mojahedin signed a peace agreement for nothing but to break the citizens and bring them more hardship. So far, whatever the neighboring countries have done to bring peace to Afghanistan is not enough and a concrete step should be taken.

An immediate summit meeting of regional countries including Iran, Pakistan and some others with influence in Afghanistan, could be held to chalk out a plan for free and fair elections which is a must and that many believe can silence the guns.

Commentary Urges Reconciliation in Afghanistan

LD0601200894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1545 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Although after a few days of clashes among various rival groups in Kabul the intensity of fighting has to some extent subsided, nevertheless, it is difficult to

have a clear view about future developments in that country. Different news media have dispatched various reports that indicate new developments in Afghanistan. On the basis of these reports, the opponents of Borhanoddin Rabbani have made his removal from power a pre-condition for ending the fighting in Kabul. Analysts predict that in this way the situation in Afghanistan is in the throes of unpredictable events. The question being asked by analysts is whether such a demand will be.

In any case, even if power passes hands in Kabul, one cannot expect fundamental changes to occur in the course of events in that country. The only difference would be that the tragic fight for power in Afghanistan would be repeated in a different form, because none of the groups wish to reach a total and comprehensive agreement. On the contrary, each group looks into the future of Afghanistan only through the prism of its own interests. One can find the evidence for this in many agreements that have been signed during the past two years, especially the Islamabad and Jalalabad agreements.

There is very little flexibility in the positions adopted by various groups. The whole country is awash with weapons and armed forces. The forces under the commands of various leaders do not obey them in practice. The leaders themselves distrust one another, and each agreement is invalid in the eyes of others. The combination of these factors prevents one from making a positive assessment about the developments in Afghanistan.

The truth is that what the people of Afghanistan need at present above all else is security. Any development that will not bring about security for the people of Afghanistan is to be rejected. The two-year war among various rival political and military groups has destroyed the resources and capabilities of Afghanistan, has denied security to the people, has caused death and injury of thousands of people, and has turned many more thousands into refugees. Even now one cannot look forward to a bright future for that country.

Political analysts believe the problem of Afghanistan does not consist in what group holds power in that country. The problem is that whatever group comes to power in Kabul, other groups raise the banner of opposition to it. It seems that the only solution to this problem is for all the rival groups to sincerely lay down their arms and to sit round a negotiation table with the aim of achieving the interests of their country and to disarm the irresponsible military forces. Then, each group should accept some responsibility in proportion to its ability and aptitude. In this context, each group should give priority to the national interests of Afghanistan above its own group interests. Otherwise, war will continue until all groups are worn out. Under such circumstances, the people of Afghanistan will be the main losers, and foreigners would impose their conditions on them from outside.

Brunei's Envoy, Velayati Meet; Sultan to Visit

LD0601140294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Following the opening of Brunei's embassy in Tehran, (Haj Suhini Bin Haj Muhammad Hassan), that country's first charge d'affaires in the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday met with the Iranian foreign minister, Mr. Velayati and presented his credentials.

In the meeting, the two officials discussed the expansion and the strengthening of the two countries' relations, and the coming visit of the sultan of Brunei, Haj Hassan Bolkihah, to Iran.

The Bruneian charge d'affaires considered the Islamic Republic of Iran as a second home, and stressed the willingness of his country's officials in strengthening relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pointing to the results of their previous meetings and discussions of the two countries' officials, and the positive steps which have been taken in line with the two countries' ties, Mr. Velayati considered the Bruneian ruler's coming visit to Iran as a significant step for expansion of relations. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Lockerbie Air Crash Anniversary

NC0701090094 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Dec 93 p 16

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Larijani: "Legal Behavior"]

[Text] 1. At the initiative of U.S. Senator Kennedy and with the extensive cooperation of the propaganda machinery, the anniversary of the Pan American explosion over Lockerbie, England [as published], was marked by a pompous ceremony, the major objective of which was to justify the pressure by the United States and the West on Libya or, in a broader sense, to show the so-called fight against state terrorism. During this propaganda show, there were also some who tried to criticize Iran—probably because of the West's anger over the visit by the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tripoli.

2. A live television program with a large number of viewers aired questions and answers on the incident and the legality of the United States' demands that the Libyans accused of the incident be handed over.

One listener asked: "If it is true that the United States has the right to demand that a person it thinks is responsible for the explosion be handed over to it, then the Iranian Government can also demand that those responsible for the downing of a civilian Airbus by a missile in the Persian Gulf, which resulted in the deaths of its passengers, be handed over to Iran to be tried and sentenced in Iran."

The person to whom the question was asked, who was apparently caught off guard, hastily said: "No, no. These are two completely different issues."

The correspondent, who found the entire scene disgraceful, said sarcastically: "Yes. There is a great difference. An Iranian mother apparently doesn't love her children as much as an American mother does!"

Inevitably, a philosopher who was with the person being interviewed, commented:

"Well, the U.S. Government's actions are all based on law and we have always behaved in a legal manner in the world. Therefore our situation is very different from the situation of others."

3. The above is not the only example of the emptiness of the West's political-humanitarian thoughts in justifying its behavior. Those who consider the perpetration of any crime to be permissible on the pretext of fighting fundamentalism or for the sake of human rights display the ugliest examples of behavior in history. Every day, the people of the world see dozens of examples of this kind of "logic" and "law." But why are they facing a problem? Why are modern technology, supreme economic power, and spectacular military might unable to offer a logical justification? Undoubtedly all their problems have to do with "being righteous." Bad can be disguised as good for some time, but the truth will ultimately surface. Even though we, the Islamic ummah, do not have supreme military might or advanced technological capabilities, we can safeguard our grandeur and our respect if we support justness and right.

'Indifference' Toward 'Cultural Onslaught' Criticized

NC0701134394 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Dec 93 p 2

[Commentary by Majid Reza'iyani: "Why This Indifference?"]

[Text] Public opinion is often described as an obscure political power and is considered to be one of the major pillars of national strength. In the area of public opinion the press plays an important role and, generally speaking, its efforts are summed up as either "positive" or "negative."

The press in Iran today is facing extremely sensitive conditions that inevitably call for the adoption of a clear stance and firm guidance of public opinion.

Actually, why are some of our press today indifferent toward a reality that is known as cultural onslaught? What impact does this indifference have on the current generation and will it have on the coming generation?

The esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeini, who has repeatedly stressed the dangers of a foreign cultural onslaught and has warned against weakness toward this onslaught, said when appointing the new

KEYHAN editor that "indifference toward the Iranian nation's mental needs and its Islamic and revolutionary aspirations, which can be seen in some of the country's press today, is a sin that will not be pardoned by our people now or in the future or on the day of divine judgment."

Yes! Some of the newspapers in Iran today consider the publication of the ideas of those who do not believe in the Islamic and national grandeur of the people to be better than confronting such ideas. Some newspapers prefer to propagate secular beliefs within the framework of each interview and roundtable discussion that they publish rather than propound the luminous ideas of Islam and of the revolution.

Where should we seek the root of such indifference? Where does this indifference, conservatism, and disregard for reality and values come from?

It seems that some of the foreign cultural onslaught happens not because it is strong but because our own forces are not firm in stating their views.

What answer do those who manage most of the press, especially the newspapers, in Iran today and should meet the mental needs of the Iranian nation, the young generation, and the truth seekers have for this indifference?

How successful have some newspapers with a high circulation that publish long interviews and propound the "theory of forbearance" or publish items trying to encourage the country's foreign policy to establish relations with the United States been in their main mission, which is to guide public opinion, clarify reality, and defend the country from the foreign onslaught? Especially at a time when the ideological and cultural trends of heterodox elements are exploiting the freedom of the press in Iran today and are constantly putting forth pro-Western theories. Of course, it is because of the prevailing indifference that such situations are not confronted. The esteemed leader said in his statement appointing the new KEYHAN editor:

"The confrontation and rebellion against aspirations that can unfortunately be seen in some newspapers today because of the exploitation of the freedoms that the Islamic Republic enjoys is a heavy and unforgivable sin."

Thus, with the clear stances by the leader of the revolution, there is no place for pretexts. The forces that consider themselves pious and committed to the revolution and to its values and who rely on how some of the newspapers guide public opinion do not have any justification for the continuation of this indifference.

Pakistan

'Fervent Appeal' Issued for Afghan Cease-Fire

BK0601162094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT
6 Jan 94

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 6 (AFP)—Pakistan made a fervent appeal Thursday to warring Afghan factions in Kabul to agree to a 24 hour temporary cease-fire from Friday to evacuate diplomats and Afghans wounded in six days of fierce fighting.

A foreign office spokesman here expressed the Pakistan government's "deep regret" at the escalation of fighting in Kabul. He said the aerial bombardment was posing "greater danger to civilians" living in the war-weary Afghan capital.

He fervently appealed to all the Afghan factions involved in the clashes to agree to a temporary cease-fire for 24 hours starting from 6:00 p.m. (1100 GMT) Friday "so that all diplomatic and UN personnel living in Kabul and people wounded in the six days of fighting could be evacuated on emergency basis."

"The government of Pakistan hopes that all Afghan leaders would respond positively to this appeal," the spokesman said in a statement here.

Pakistan had earlier twice appealed for an immediate ceasefire in Kabul, scene of the worst power struggle, and other Afghan cities in the past few days.

It also urged all sides to hold political negotiations with the object of reviving the process of conciliation for lasting political settlement. The appeals have not yet been heeded.

Sources said the casualties in six days of bloody fighting Kabul had exceeded 3,300 with hundreds trapped in their homes awaiting medical assistance.

Editorial Deplores Violence

BK0601093194 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Jan 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Turmoil in Afghanistan"]

[Text] It is extremely painful that the internecine fighting in Afghanistan has assumed the form of a war causing widespread damage to property and loss of lives. In the struggle for power between different groups, hundreds of civilians have been uprooted from their homes and are fleeing in panic to safe places. In the latest round of fighting which broke out on the New Year's Day for control of the Afghan capital Kabul, dozens of people have been killed and more than 1,700 injured. Those involved in the affray are troops loyal to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his newfound ally, Gen. Dostam who are pitted against those loyal to the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani. The latter has reportedly fled the capital.

Since infantry battles are raging not only around Kabul but also in the northern province of Balkh, rockets and shells are raining down on the Afghan capital at the rate of six or seven a minute, and military aircraft are carrying out bombing raids on different locations, the destruction the country is facing can well be imagined. At the same time, the death toll is likely to reach alarming figures. Food and medicines are already in short supply in the country and if the fighting prolongs, the Afghan people would suffer tremendously. Although a large number of those who had fled their homes during Soviet occupation have returned to Afghanistan, the present fighting there may again cause outflows to Pakistan and India and other neighbouring countries. It is unfortunate that neither the world community nor the organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has taken any serious notice of the civil war in Afghanistan and done nothing to bring it to a halt. It is only Pakistan which has expressed its grave concern at the situation, made an appeal to Afghan leaders to stop fighting and renewed its earlier offer to mediate a settlement between the rival factions. It has warned that military success by one faction over the other would be of a transient nature and may enlarge the fighting undermining national unity. The only happy news from Afghanistan is that the warring factions have agreed to a truce in response to an Iranian offer to evacuate some of the wounded from Kabul. The Afghan leaders must realise that the use of force is not a viable option to resolve political differences and disputes. Having taken the initiative, Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali should visit Afghanistan as soon as possible and make every effort to bring about cessation of hostilities in that country and help the rival factions to settle their differences through peaceful means.

Campaign To Expel 'Afghan' Arabs To Begin

PM0601172494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p1

[Unattributed report: "A Pakistani Campaign Soon for the Deportation of 'Afghan' Arabs"]

[Text] Islamabad, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official Pakistani sources yesterday confirmed that hundreds of "Afghan" Arabs living in Afghanistan [as published] are now targets for detention and deportation to their countries of origin within the next few weeks. A foreign ministry spokesman in Islamabad has stated that Algeria, Egypt, and Tunisia had officially requested that Pakistan expel their extremist nationals residing in Pakistan.

The spokesman added that "solving this problem is also important for Pakistan."

Pakistan is expected to begin its campaign in the next few weeks to avoid the possibility of its name being added to the U.S. list of "states which sponsor terrorism." It is known that the U.S. State Department is now reviewing that list prior to issuing a new list in February.

Minister Departs for Central Asian Republics

BK0701092694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, left Islamabad this morning for an official visit to Central Asian states. The week-long tour will take him to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan. Talking to newsmen before his departure, he said Pakistan would offer Central Asian republics to open up their embassies in Islamabad to help boost bilateral cooperation. Pakistan has already concluded about 38 agreements with these states for strengthening cooperation in a number of fields. He said no progress could be made on the agreements due to lack of follow up, and during his current visit he would try to remove blockages and revitalize them. Special attention would be paid to matters relating to trade, transport, and communications. He said Pakistan and China have agreed to sign an agreement to make Karakoram Highway a viable road and there is a plan to open it up for Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in future.

U.S. Urged To Make India See 'Light'

BK0601094994 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 Jan 94 p 6

[Editorial: "U.S. and Pak-India Talks"]

[Text] While the perception in Pakistan on the prospects of an early resumption of dialogue with India is not one of optimism, the U.S. State Department seems upbeat. Apparently it has access to some information which is not available to Pakistan. So far as Pakistan is concerned, it has just the latest pronouncements of the Indian Foreign Secretary, Dixit and the Indian Defence Minister [title as published] Chavan, before it. Mr Dixit, in reply to a question said that the UN Resolutions on Kashmir are irrelevant. Mr Chavan has said that Kashmir can neither be given independence or allowed to join Pakistan. Although the words used by the two are different, they both refer to the redundancy of the UN Resolutions. The U.S., however, has reiterated that these Resolutions remain valid. That may or may not amount to a positive factor, but Pakistan's Foreign Secretary himself has said that India had conceded Kashmir's disputed status and the right of the people of Kashmir to have a say in the future of their land. The question then is that if the people of Kashmir have a say in the future of their land. The question then is that if the people of Kashmir have a say, then how can they express it? According to Mr Chavan they cannot ask for freedom nor can they favour Pakistan, they can only be allowed to say that they want to be with India. How will they say it, assuming that they will be allowed to do so, is not clear. Curious as the logic of the Indian position is, the explanations given for it are even more ludicrous. Mr Dixit is quoted as saying that how can a small number of freedom-fighters (dubbed secessionists) be allowed to determine the fate of the whole of Kashmir, and why should Pakistan risk the peace of the sub-continent for a

small piece of land? The assumption behind the assessment of the number of freedom-fighters is that had they not come on the scene, the people of Kashmir would have liked to be with India. It is easy to test that assumption. When Cambodia went to polls under UN supervision, people did not vote for the Khmer Rouge. Therefore bring the UN in and let the world see for itself what the Kashmiris want: India or Pakistan. That would be the end of the problem once and for all. So far as the importance of that small piece of territory to Pakistan is concerned, it is based on the founding principle of Pakistan's creation. Pakistan's economy and security also depend on it. It is a Muslim majority state, all Pakistan's rivers flow from it and it is vital to Pakistan's defence. None of these factors apply so far as India's claim is concerned. Also, if it is small and insignificant, why does India want to hang on to it?

It was because of U.S. pressure that Pakistan withdrew its resolution on human rights from the UN agenda, letting India off the hook. Now that is clear that India has no intention of giving the people of Kashmir the opportunity to decide its future, it is the responsibility of the U.S. to make India see the light. And if it refuses then use its considerable economic and other clout against it in the interest of peace in the sub-continent.

Government Not To Indulge in 'Victimization'

BK0601092894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Jan 94

[Text] The Senate today resumed discussion on the president's address to the joint session of the Parliament. Mr. Abdur Rahim Mandokhel, who was the first speaker today, proposed reforms in the Constitution to give it true federal, parliamentary, and democratic orientation. He said the affairs of the government should be conducted through mutual accommodation and understanding between the government and the opposition on the one hand, and the center and the provinces on the other. The debate is still continuing.

Responding to a point of order, the minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Syed Iqbal Haider, reiterated the government's determination not to indulge in any sort of victimization of its political opponents. The point of order was raised by Ejazul Islam Jatui in the Senate this morning, who complained that political opponents were being victimized in Sindh. Syed Iqbal Haider, however, made it clear that the law will take its own course against criminals, terrorists, and plunderers of the people's money.

Court Grants Bail to Mir Murtaza Bhutto

BK0601104994 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Jan 94 p 18

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 5—The Sessions Judge, Peshawar, Khan Akbar Khan, on Wednesday granted bail to Mir Murtaza Bhutto, son of former Prime Minister the late Mr Z.A. Bhutto, in two different cases of terrorist activities.

The accused is currently detailed in Karachi.

He had been sentenced by a military court in 1985 for his alleged involvement in terrorist activities. Two FIRs [First Information Reports] had been registered against him at police stations east Cantt [Cantonment] and Faqirabad.

The Judge directed the public prosecutor to submit to the court complete record of the cases. In his judgement, the judge wrote that the original judicial file was not received though the same was requisitioned in connection with the present petition and the court was told that the same had been destroyed and not received back from the martial law authorities whereas only the police file consisting mostly of carbon and photostat copies of various documents were submitted.

The Judge wrote that a careful perusal of the record submitted to the court showed that the present petitioner (Mir Murtaza Bhutto) was not named in the FIRs in question nor was there any direct evidence against him. Though some of the co-accused had mentioned the name of Mir Murtaza Bhutto, alleging that he gave them training instructions about the explosions, the confessions were in the form of photostat copies while the originals thereof were not available.

The court was of the view that in this situation the alleged abscondance of the petitioner had no material, solid and genuine support.

The court accepted the application of the petitioner and ordered his release on bail in the sum of Rs. 100,000 with two local and reliable sureties in the like amount to the satisfaction of the court.

[Karachi DAWN in English on 6 Jan on p 18, in an additional report adds: "Mir Murtaza Bhutto, son of the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, went on hunger strike on Wednesday.

"At 71-Clifton, [Nusrat Bhutto's residence] spokesman Ahsan Bhazzi told newsmen that Mir Murtaza had asked his family not to bring food for him until the demands of 40 Hyderabad Jail inmates, now on hunger strike, were accepted.

"The spokesman recalled that Mir Murtaza Bhutto, who has been lodged to Borstal Jail, Landhi, since his arrival after 16-year in self-exile in Syria, had given a notice to the jail authorities about his hunger strike.

"In reply to a question, Bhatti said that as no one had been allowed to see Mir Murtaza Bhutto after the Larkana tragedy, he could not say what his reaction was.")

Sri Lanka

LTTE To Execute Mahattaya for Betrayal

BK0701121494 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jan 94

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has confirmed that its former deputy leader Gopalaswamy Mahendraraja, alias Mahattaya, has been sentenced to death. According to early intelligence reports, his execution has been tentatively fixed for the 16th of this month. A news dispatch received by LANKAPUVATH from London states that this week's edition of the official LTTE news bulletin (KHALLATATHIL) published in London announced that Mahattaya has been sentenced to death. He is also a former leader of the political wing of the terrorist group. Mahattaya is reported to be held in an LTTE prison in Jaffna.

The main accusation against him is that he has served as an agent of India's Research and Analysis Wing and allegedly provided vital information which led to the Indian Navy apprehending the MV Ahatta on board [as heard] which LTTE's international representative and former deputy leader Sadasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, was transporting a shipload of highly sophisticated weapons for use by the LTTE.

Tamil Rebels Suspected of Killing Politician

BK0501140594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 5 Jan 94

[Text] Colombo, Jan 5 (AFP) - Suspected Tamil rebels killed a prospective candidate ahead of elections to local government bodies in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast, and warned others against participating, officials said Wednesday.

Gunmen believed to be from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) dragged out Kanagaratnam Jeevaratnam from his home in eastern Sittandy late Tuesday, shot him dead and dumped his body in the town, officials said.

"There was also a note by the side (of the body) warning that others who try to contest will also get the same treatment," a local official in the east said, adding it was "definitely" the work of the LTTE.

Jeevaratnam was planning to stand as an independent candidate in the local government elections due to be held shortly. However, exact dates of balloting have not yet been announced.

Nominations for the local government polls were being received from Wednesday in the eastern districts of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara and northern Vavuniya. Nominations close on January 12.

The LTTE has called on Tamil parties to boycott the polls and had put up posters in the east, threatening those who participated in the polls with death.

Since the parliamentary elections of February 1989, there has been no balloting in the northeast due to the ongoing war between government troops and LTTE guerrillas.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils who are concentrated in the region. Thousands have died in the LTTE-led independence campaign.

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